Illustrated Midland News.

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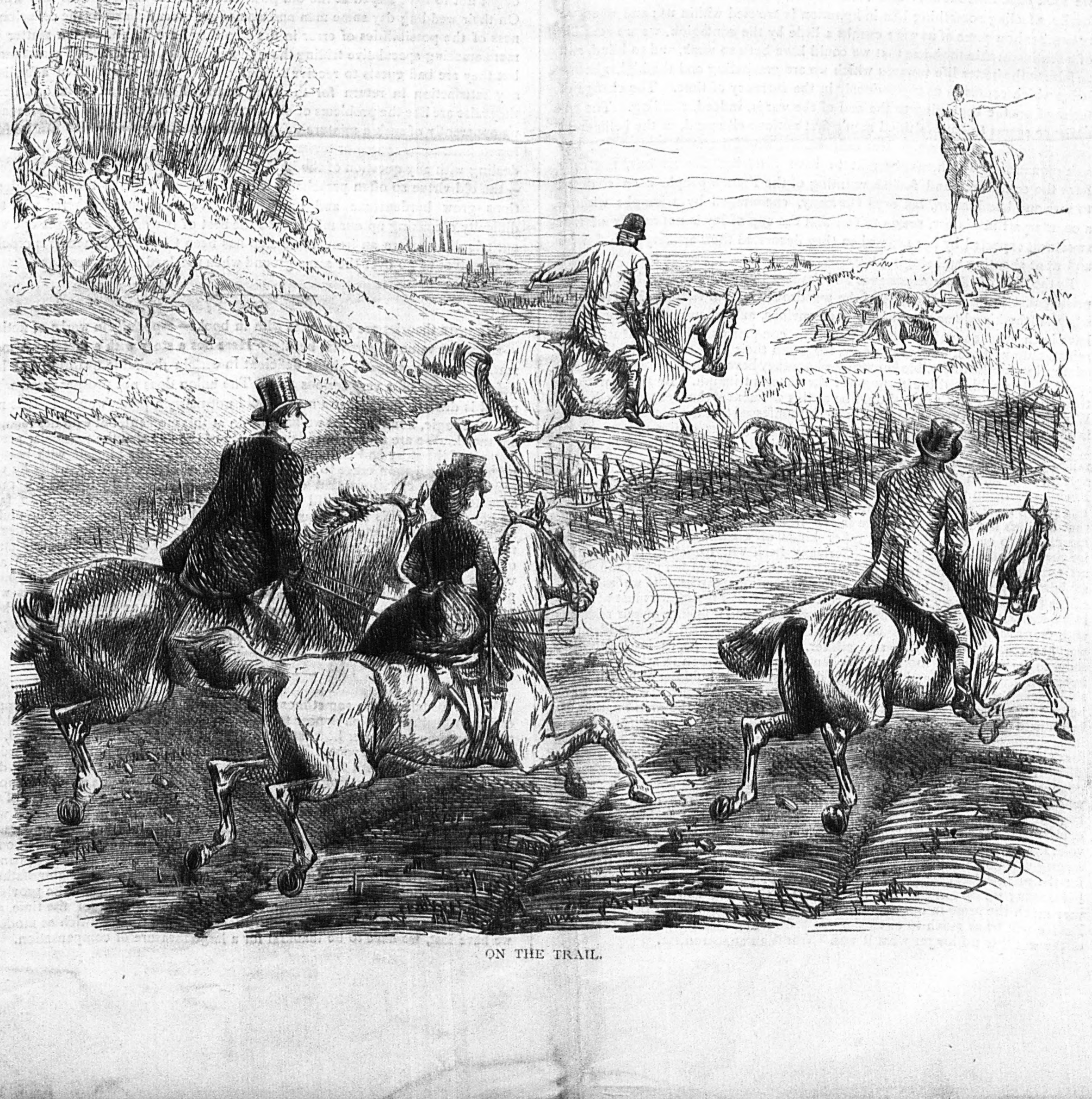
## THE PASSING SEASON.

Make much of it, for the season is running out. The buds on the hedges begin to swell, the green wheat is thickening. The early spring days are beautiful in their freshness and their promise, but every one of them is a new warning of the coming end of the sport best loved in these islands. Summer is glorious, but the last meet always comes too soon. It was the fox hunter who first discovered that an English winter is not all dreariness. The true huntsman has but a half-hearted belief in any other entertainment in this world. He lives to follow the pack, and to him all the months during which the hounds keep their kennels are months of tribulation, of unwelcome reflection and waiting. From October to April is to him the golden time. Then to hunt three days in the week is the only good thing, but four days out is better, and five the acme of happiness. He who knows not the joy of following the fox lives in a different world. Between the hard rider across English acres and the man whose blood was never stirred by the "Tally-ho!" an impassable barrier is set up. They have no pulsation in common, and the opinion of one about seasons and clear skies and clouds, and the consistency and conformation of soils, is as nothing to the other. The sportsman and sportswoman of our picture are losing no time in these last weeks of the chase. But the horseman and horsewoman on the left are young—they are not perhaps wholly given over to the uncompromising spirit of the sport. To them, perhaps, there is something to look forward to in the coming spring and summer. They are an agreeable link between the hunting world and the lost millions outside who know not the ecstacy of the sport.



ON THE TRAIL.

## WAR'S DECADENCE.

Now that the war is over, and time is left us calmly to interrogate our own minds and to read the minds of other men, one fact above all others is evident. The sentiment of the world is changed with regard to war. Intensely in this country, and in a smaller but not less positive degree among other nations, these nine months have been months of protest. Everybody has deprecated the strife in which the two leading peoples of the continent have been engaged; everybody in more or less vehement terms has sooner or later denounced it. This is not the old feeling about international conflict. The world used to stand by and look upon the turns of fortune of contending forces with a different sort of interest. Neutrals, as a matter of sympathy, always took sides: but it was after the manner of the spectators round a prize-ring, who back one champion or the other to win, and have no desire to see the sport spoiled till the encounter is fairly ended. History, fiction, and song bear testimony to the fact that the blood of non-combatants used to be warmed by what was going on outside the borders of their own lands, and nations were oftentimes glad of a small excuse for taking part on the one side or the other. Between this war and others even within the recollection of the present generation we may detect a difference in this respect. Never before was there the same articulate and inarticulate indignation at the news of slaughter and destruction. The American struggle of secession, the Crimean war, the French invasion of Austrian Italy, the Prussian conflict for mastery with the Austrian empire—were watched with something more of the old feeling than has been evinced at any time since the Franco-Prussian war grew serious. And what is more notable still, we did not quite begin in July as we have gone on since. In this country even there were thousands who caught a slight infection from the delirious enthusiasm of Paris; and numberless spirits were warmed in the old way by the cries of "*Nach Paris!*" and "*à Berlin!*" But it was only the effervescence of a moment. It was the effort of a half effete habit, over which the newer and better spirit of modern life soon got the mastery. Since the first ebullition which broke out in concert with the wild war shouts of France and Germany, it has been hard to move—us after the manner in which men have been wont to be moved—by the most glowing descriptions of battles and victories. The hideous folly of it all, the grim delusion of glory, the monstrous crime of two civilised peoples leaving off honest employment to go abroad to such work as that have impressed all the world to whom the story has been told. When we look back nine months and recall the street demonstrations of Paris and Berlin, a feeling something like indignation is aroused within us; and when we remember how some of us were caught a little by the contagion, we are sensible of a sentiment akin to shame that we could have been so weak, and so blind, and so false to the better life towards which we are gravitating and the higher knowledge which comes to us mysteriously in the currency of time. The change of feeling from the beginning to the end of the war is, indeed, startling. The experience seems to have falsified men's first notions all round, in the belligerent countries and out of them. Not only has the world declared against the war as a monstrosity which never ought to have disturbed the nations, not only have the confidence and foolish vaunting of the French people been changed to woe and humiliation, but even Germany, encouraged by triumphs without a counterpart in history, seems to feel that the cup of joy is not exactly of that sweetness expected by her sons when they decorated their artillery with flowers and went shouting and singing towards the Rhine.

By the light of all our experience and reading in matters of war, is it not surprising that so little is thought of the wondrous German victories? Time was when all the kingdoms would have been envious, and when no honours would have been great enough to bestow upon the conquerors. Even defeated and ruined nations have, in days gone by, forgotten their grief and their shame in admiration for the invincible heroes by whom they have been overcome, and have spent their wealth and breath to grace the victor's triumph. By the analogy of the annals of war all Europe should be at this moment at the feet of King-Kaiser WILLIAM and Count Von MOLTKE. It must be confessed that the world's admiration is of a very mild sort. Not that we depreciate the genius of the men to whom belong the merit of the campaign. That is hardly open to detraction from a military point of view. Greater mastery of the art of war was never shown in ancient or modern times. It is from no defect in the genius of the great Prussian tactician that we fail to render him the homage erewhile considered due to the most accomplished and successful leaders of armies. The truth is that soldiers have lost their place in the front rank of mankind. Their glory has ceased to outshine that of all other kinds of greatness. Their work is no longer estimated at its old price. Germany itself will forget, in the days that are coming, to allow the name of MOLTKE to eclipse that of her poets and philosophers as they would have done a few generations earlier. If we ask ourselves in what light we regard the great triumph of Prussia, we must acknowledge that we do not expect it to have any very marked influence on our relations with Germany in the future. We have all become impressed with the idea that war has ceased to be the real arbiter. As soon as peace is declared we seem to be on our old footing. We renew the competition in art, in industry, in learning, in science; and if Germany does not therein hold her own with us we shall make little account of her prowess in arms and its results. We none of us believe that France is really in the dust. The genius of the grand nation, its brightness of intelligence, its wit, its clear, keen and lofty intellectuality: these are its real armies of the future; and if in its own province it should be too much for the Teutons, the Teutons will not hold their own in the competition of nations. The brain and hand in the work of civilisation will win. In olden days such a conquest as that which has been made by Prussia would have been deemed worthy of the supremest effort and sacrifice of a nation. The only thing that kept the kings of past times from strife was the fear of losing. Whoever could foresee the possibility of such a triumph would have been certain to provoke the conflict. So great, however, is the change, that there is not a nation among us who would willingly occupy the place of Prussia, and have her glory for the price it has cost her. We are none of us very much impressed with her deeds; we do not care for the honour. Germany and the Germans are very much the same in our esteem as they were nine months, or nine years ago. France will be as much to us as she was before her disasters. The sentiment of the world is no longer what it was. War is an anachronism.

## TABLE TALK.

To the man who cannot be sure of his temper conversation must be a sore trial. You may be disposed to be indignant at his folly and wrong-headedness, but watch him and you will pity him. See how the blood rushes up to the forehead. What an unpleasant heat it leaves in the eyes. What uneasiness and painful self-consciousness follow. He listens for a word not intended for his ears. He wants to see signs of how others are regarding him: but he is not quite so far gone as to turn and look into every face. While the tide of talk runs on from subject to subject he is turning over again and again the thing that vexed him. He cannot get rid of it. Other people seem to have forgotten it, but he is sure they will bring it up afresh in association with his name when he is beyond hearing. He has uttered a word or two half revealing his anger and he cannot go back. The unwise expression was little enough in itself, but it seems to gather volume and significance as it repeats itself in his memory. All such words do indeed develop and increase once they are uttered. They move on like the circles of water in a pool, and one is not quite sure that the ruffled surface ever gets absolutely smooth again. There are many excellent resolutions which a man may make when he is going into company and expecting to take a part in the conversation, but the one about which he should be most determined, under all circumstances, and in spite of all provocation, fanciful or real, is to maintain an absolute mastery over his temper, and to defy the most inquisitorial eyes to discover the word or the subject that touches his vanity or his prejudices.

ONE of the oddest of speculations which can occur to a man is: as to whether he may not have made a mistake in a matter in regard to which he never before entertained a doubt. The reflection is one that wakes him up to an appalling notion of the instability of all the foundations on which judgments are made to rest. These thoughts will sometimes arise just at the accomplishment of a scheme, or the realisation of a long pursued object. When the wealth is gained, the man for the first time hesitates as to the policy of having devoted himself to its acquirement. When he has done well in his profession he begins to think he might have done better in another. When he has made a great change, and has arrived at the completion of it, so that he cannot go back, he stops for a moment, and a certain grizzly wonder presents itself, wanting to know if he ought not to have stayed at the old post, and have let things be as they were. On their wedding day some men and women are overwhelmed by the consciousness of the possibilities of error in the step they have taken. As a matter of mere amusing speculative trifling these thoughts may be entertained sometimes, but they are bad guests to receive seriously. They are incapable of affording any satisfaction in return for the time bestowed upon them. The questions they raise are like the problems of ontology, incapable of solution. Life is made up apparently of such a mixture of possibilities—no one of which can be followed back to its source or forward to its end—that the mind is incapable of dealing with any question of the kind which may present itself. Contentment—the old virtue so often preached—is the best remedy when these considerations grow burdensome and unpleasant. We are enough bothered with the difficulty of making up our minds as to the best of two or three courses open to our adoption before an irrevocable step has been taken. It is needless cruelty to ourselves to go over the same ground when the deed is past recall.

STRANGE theories are often met with in books—especially in works of fiction—about the value of personal beauty. Here lies a story with a moral. A man marries a pretty woman; she is deficient in certain desirable qualities, but her defects are not of a very serious sort. The union does not prosper; and what moral is drawn? Why, that a man should not marry a pretty woman! It is not with the logic, however, that we have to do at this moment, but with the reasons advanced. We are told that, independently of the fact that the particular pretty woman of the story had faults, a man had better not ally himself with beauty, because he will soon cease to be sensible of the charm himself, while he will continue to be conscious that other men are influenced by that which once attracted him: and his life will be rendered uneasy thereby. He will, in fact, be blind to his wife's beauty, but, nevertheless, he will be jealous. The philosophy is odd; the facts are more peculiar still. Do the ladies read homilies of this sort, and put their trust in them? Do they accept the extraordinary dictum of a writer who tells them that a man is capable of appreciating beauty in any woman except his wife? for that is what the doctrine amounts to. If young people were not, happily, sceptical about the unwise wisdom of their elders who preach to them, What philosophy would be so tragic as that of the teachers who aver that matrimony not only destroys all illusions but casts a blight upon that which is loveliest, and best in reality!

WHEN we talk, as we sometimes do, about the hurry, and the intense application to business, which appear to be conditions of modern life, we should at the same time remember how much enjoyment and relaxation are crowded, so to speak, into a small space. The man whose activity does not go unrewarded, and who is blessed with fair means in the world, gets about him a good deal that affords relief, entertainment, and indeed, culture—that was wholly unknown to his predecessors of a generation or two ago. Look at the homes of the middle classes of to-day. They are immeasurably attractive in comparison with those of half a century ago. The furniture is more elegant, the colours are better harmonised, the household music is long stages in advance. The books, the pictures which come within reasonable means, and all the appliances of life, are such as to cast into the shade the surroundings of their grandfathers. Almost the whole world and its attractions are within reach, and the provision made everywhere for their enjoyment and entertainment is of the time, and beats the past. If we work hard, and if there are a few things which as moderns we have lost, we have to be thankful for a large measure of compensation.

## MAD.

I SUPPOSE I must be mad. Everybody says I am, and this place is a Lunatic Asylum. Some of the inmates think it is a palace; I know it to be a prison; but what does it matter to me? Since I lost my boy Charlie I would as lief be here as anywhere else. Poor Charlie! O! how my blood boils and my fingers tighten when I think of my poor dear lad in the clutches of those infernal harpies! Yes, then I am mad, heaven knows, and the world is changed to me as it was then—changed entirely, be-devilled, bewitched—a weird world with strange mountains and thick snaky rivers, and great wild thistles, and trees growing all awry, and big glaring eyes in old women's faces.

They say my boy died quietly in these old arms; that he lay with his head on my shoulder, and that he kissed me and smiled as his mother had done in those days long ago. Sometimes I dream it was so; but that is very seldom. Would such delicious dreaming were true!

We were staying, Charlie and I, at a quiet little watering-place in Wales. Phœbe, his dear mother, my darling wife, had been dead only three months, and we three had spent our July of the year before at this same seaside retreat. Poor Charlie! Poor dear Phœbe! One evening walking alone, when my boy was gone to bed, I rested near a strange lonely cottage. The moon was at its full, and cast a white radiant light upon the moss and lichens which clung to the stone walls about the Welsh cottage. An owl sat at the doorway, and close by two stony hills reared themselves upwards against the heavens. It was one of those broken-down, out-of-the-way cottages which you see up amongst the hills near deserted lead mines. Whilst I rested, an old wrinkled woman came to the door and beat a child cruelly with a flat stone, a hard slaty-looking splinter. The little one writhed under each blow, and I rushed to its assistance; but a giddiness came over me, and before I came quite to myself again I was at home sitting by my dear Charlie's bed and praying that no wicked angels might have power over him. The boy wept and sobbed; he was hot and feverish—but the next day he was well again; well and cheerful and lively, full of his own pretty sayings, talking about all manner of quiet things. We walked by the sea and talked of the strange fishes that no one had ever seen, and of the grottoes of amber and the wonderful coral palaces the storytellers describe. I could sometimes fancy that I and poor Charlie belonged to some wonderful race of mer-people; but I so loved the boy that I could fancy anything for his dear sake. Can you wonder that I am a madman when he is gone? Hush, hush—I will tell you all that terrible history of his taking off. Let me hold your hand, dear friend; it steadies my thoughts, and I know you are true, and that you will weep for me and Charlie.

When we walked out the next afternoon I thought I would find that strange cottage by the stony hill, and remonstrate with the woman who had beaten the child. I would remonstrate with her, and my Charlie's cheerful happy face should be a living example to her of the effect of kindness and affection. My heart always did bleed to see children ill-used—they are so feeble, so weakly, so helpless! We reached the cottage and entered it. On the threshold we met a poor emaciated child, that hopped out and leered strangely at Charlie. Two old women were sitting by a large open chimney, up which the fire crept with an oily snaky motion. The same giddy sensation which had effected me previously seemed to take possession of me, but I flung it off with a desperate effort, and addressed myself to the woman who had beaten the little one.

"I must apologise," I said, "for entering your cottage, but an impulse of duty prompted the step I have taken. Whilst mild and careful chastisement may be fitting for an undutiful child, wrathful and violent flogging is an outrage upon humanity, an insult to God himself, and wrongs—"

The truth is I cannot remember what I said; but I think that is how I began my little speech. I meant to have been very impressive—Lord, how I wasted my breath! I think I quoted our blessed Saviour's precious words about little children. I know I repeated some lines from Elizabeth Browning's "Cry of the Children," which always sets my heart beating as if it would burst, and sends a thrill of sympathy and despair and love and fear and vengeance through my veins in one terrible ecstatic agitation.

Whilst I spoke in accents fierce and in tender words of woe, a sense of fear fell upon me. I turned towards my boy. He was sitting close by one of those olden women near a table upon which lay sundry knives and forks. He looked up at me and smiled, a contented happy smile, and then I felt more grieved for those weeping children in the kingdom of the free. All suddenly, the woman sitting by my Charlie took up a knife, and passing the edge of the blade along the boy's right hand, left a long red mark there. No blood flowed, but there was a long red raw streak, and my boy cried with pain. In a moment (Oh, that dreadful time!)—in an instant I knew that he was marked with a witch's sign. My Charlie was doomed! Don't mind my hand trembling so—I know what I am saying. Don't be alarmed. The keeper is watching us; he knows I am telling you my story.

"Out, out—at the door, Charlie!" I exclaimed, seizing the boy and hurrying him away. The door shut between us, he on the outside; I within the cottage—the door shut and great bolts bolted and fastened themselves without assistance. Why did I not know before that these women were too wicked, filthy, black, and brutal hags! Glancing at the window I saw that all the surrounding country was changing. The few trees which grew near the hill had suddenly become crooked and fantastic, gnarled and gaunt with long ragged branches. There were faces grinning at me amongst the stones on the hill side; giant thistles had sprung up in the yard through which Charlie and I had passed; hemlock and wild pulpy plants crowded up and laid branches of putrid-looking berries on the window sill. The sun looked like a copper disc reflecting the light of the witches' fire. Oh, how my pulses beat! My brain throbbed and burned. The two filthy hags sitting on their scraggy haunches were watching me with red and blood-shot eyes. Seizing a knife from the table I rushed upon them, but they eluded my grasp. The fire leaped up, and I heard my Charlie cry—"Father, father—dear father!" It was a sad plaintive cry—a wailing, sobbing, heart-broken cry. Don't be afraid, sir, I shall not hurt you. I know what I am saying—hold my hand tightly. That cry, that dreadful heart-rendering cry—it stimulated me to fresh exertion. I flung the knife at the eldest of my tormentors; it crashed into her face and buried itself there up to the hilt! But she coolly pulled it out and flung it with a cat-like snarl at her companion. *The knife left no wound behind*, and then I knew that all hope had fled—then I knew that hell had dominion in that black, bewitched abode. The child I had seen beaten, the child which I and Charlie had met on the threshhold, hopped through the unopened door and sat grinning in the weird firelight; and then the same strange inspiration of knowledge which I had experienced before told me this creature was an imp—the familiar spirit of these hags of darkness.

What happened next I cannot tell you; my memory is a blank here; but my poor Charlie has never been seen since; nor the cottage, nor the stony hills, nor the gaunt gnarled trees. I searched for them through dark glens, by polluted rivers, amongst lonely lead mines, and through gloomy forests, until some one brought me here. They say my little boy is dead, and they talk of his tiny grave; but I am not mad enough to forget that red mark of the witch's knife, the door bolted of itself, that copper sun, those grinning, skinny, filthy hags, and that sad, wailing, brain-stunning, heart-breaking cry of—"Father, father—dear father!"

JOSEPH HATTON.

## PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

MR. JAMES ALBERY has followed up the success he won at the Vaudeville by the "Two Roses," with the "Two Thorns," which has been produced at the St. James's Theatre. The play has already been performed in America, and found partial favour some months ago at Liverpool, where it was represented under the title of "The Coquettes." Our readers, when they consider the great hit made by the "Two Roses," will readily understand why the piece under notice should have been brought out under the name of the "Two Thorns." It is simply making the most of good luck, the former production serving as an advertisement to the latter. There is no connection whatever between the two plays except that they are written by the same author. The "Thorns" is full of incident, and has an abundance of lively dialogue, together with plenty of action of a farcical character, but being neither truthful nor natural it lacks interest. We are introduced to society which exists only at the footlights. The characters are neither real nor well drawn, but they are very successful as theatrical idealities. Mr. Arthur Minton, a member of the mercantile house of Parkhouse, Minton, and Curling, is the hero of the piece. Mr. Minton has married an actress who at one time was the object of affection to Mr. Bates Curling, a junior member of the firm. Mr. Minton, however, knew nothing of this. He pays a visit to a distant borough on electioneering business, and during his absence his wife's conduct has been anything but discreet. She has attended balls and theatres with a young stranger who from his spruce appearance is known as "Handsome Jones." She invited this young gentleman to her husband's country house. "Handsome Jones," although he is perfectly aware the lady is married, becomes her ardent lover. It would seem "H. J." is not the only object of the lady's affection; she has been known to bestow kisses upon two elderly admirers—Sir Kidd Parkhouse and Lord Leyton de Lay. The villain of the story is Mr. Bates Curling, and he amuses himself by arousing the jealousy of Minton in regard to the proceedings of Jones. Mrs. Minton, it would seem, has not only misbehaved as a wife, she has erred as a daughter also, for she has a father, an old fashioned tragedian, whom she has abandoned, not having made her husband aware of his existence. It afterwards appears that Mr. Minton has been well acquainted with the father-in-law, and has attempted to improve both his moral and his social condition. It is shown too that "Handsome Jones's" conduct, however absurd, is not materially reprehensible. He turns out to be the son of Lord Leyton de Lay, and ultimately he is united to Fanny, daughter of the senior member of Mr. Minton's firm—Sir Kidd Parkhouse. There is another pair of lovers—Lilian, the daughter of Mr. Minton, and Frank Parkhouse, son of Sir Kidd. The plot, it will be seen, is not very elaborate. Still, although the piece fails as a work of art, it is effective in representation. "Two Thorns" will certainly not increase the fame of Mr. Albery as a dramatist; on the contrary, it is rather calculated to detract from the popularity which he achieved with the "Two Roses."

"JOAN OF ARC" is again postponed. The delay is once more owing to Mrs. Rousby; but this time we deeply regret to say it is because the lady is ill. The Queen's will be closed until Easter,

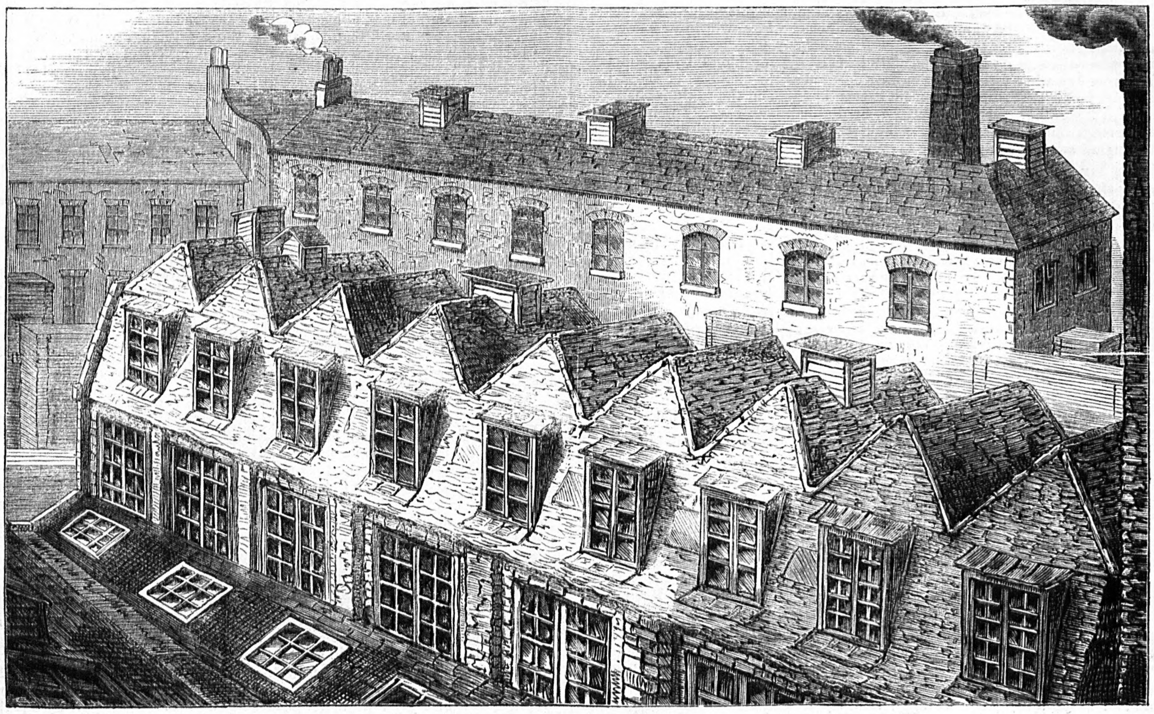
OPERA Bouffe is to be the special attraction of the Globe when it re-Easter.

THE management of the Adelphi does not seem to have increased its popularity since the accession of Mr. Chatterton. On Saturday the Theatre was mentioned at Bow-street in a curious way.

> A gentleman complained to Mr. Flowers, the magistrate, that he had been pushed out of the Adelphi Theatre for expressing his dissatisfaction at part of the performance by hissing. He was further pushed along the street, according to his own account, after leaving the theatre. Mr. Flowers said that if he had been assaulted he was entitled to a summons, but at the same time he thought that if the circumstances were explained to the manager of the theatre there would be no difficulty in obtaining an apology, the applicant declaring that he had publicly stated there was no occasion to turn him out, inasmuch as he was willing to leave, being "disgusted with the piece." Mr. Flowers added, "it could not be expected at theatres that applause must always be given." It seems a pity that persons who are dissatisfied with the performances at places of public amusement should express their disapprobation by simply leaving the building; but at the same time there can be no doubt that the applause to be heard at theatres is often very much out of proportion to the merits of the performances. If applause were only bestowed as a reward for undoubted merit, it would be far more valuable in the ears of the applauded than it is at present. Some improvement might also be effected in the mode of applauding; the loud clapping of hands is not the most musical of all sounds. Among the Romans there were three different kinds of applause—namely, *bombus*, which was a confused noise made either by the hand or mouth; and *imbrices* and *testæ*, made by beating sounding vessels placed in the theatres for that purpose. Persons were instructed in the art of giving applause, and there were masters for teaching it. We have had so much of *bombus* that we might try the effect of *imbrices* and *testæ* for a change; and, considering how ready we are to applaud every word that falls from the lips of the favourites of the moment on the political as well as on the theatrical stage, a few lessons in the art of not overdoing it might with advantage form a part of modern education.

We commend the magistrate's remarks and those of the *Pall Mall Gazette* which we have quoted to the attention of playgoers. For our own part we should be glad to see the healthy check of a hearty hiss now and then introduced into the auditorium. There is plenty of opening for the wholesome exercise of this unmistakeable criticism of those who pay for their seats.

THE IMPERIALIST PARTY IN FRANCE.—The *Observer* says that it has received the following statement as to the policy and intentions of the French Imperialists from a trustworthy source:—"The Emperor Napoleon will not deviate from the course he has pursued since the 4th of September. He will not assert his constitutional rights by an appeal to the people, because he will not at this time provoke any political conflict. The Emperor holds himself at the service of the French nation, and whenever he is called upon he will perform the will of the people. His Majesty is confident that he will hereafter be fairly judged. The Emperor does not deny his responsibility, but he declares that it was shared by the nation, and that the war against Prussia had its origin in the vehement anti-Prussian appeals of the enemies of the Empire. There is no truth in the reports of Imperial intrigues. So far from intriguing, the Emperor objects to any demonstration whatever. His Majesty will await without impatience and without doubt the decision of the French people as to the Empire and his dynasty, but he will take no steps to influence its decision."



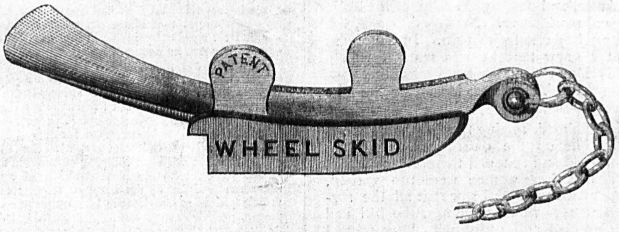
JOHN BRINSMEAD & SONS' PIANOFORTE WORKS.

## MR. POUPARD'S CURVILINEAR WHEEL SKID.

A CASE involving points of the greatest importance to patentees and inventors has been argued in the Court of Chancery before Vice-Chancellor Sir R. Malins, and which occupied the court for six days. This case is a most important one, seeing that it illustrates on the one hand the inevitable consequences of wrongful litigation, and on the other the importance of patentees having their inventions precisely and clearly defined. The plaintiff in this case—Poupard v. Fardell—is the well known weighing machine maker, of No. 7 Blackfriars-road, and is also the inventor of the serpentine screen. In January, 1859, Mr. Poupard obtained letters patent for some important improvements in the construction of wheel skids, and which are embodied in what is now widely known as his curvilinear wheel skid, an engraving of which we give below.

The invention consists in constructing a skid or shoe for the skidding of wheels in descending inclines with a tail-piece projecting from the back part and top of the skid chamber. This tail-piece may be carried entirely through the front of the shoe, formed of wrought iron or steel, while the body of the shoe may be made of cast or wrought iron. The best results are obtained when the projecting tail-piece is curved upwards, but Mr. Poupard has not limited himself to so shaping it. The form of the skid will be seen in the cut we have referred to. The history of the invention is soon told, and the improvement will be easily realised by those who still use the ordinary skid. By chance, one day, the plaintiff noticed the inefficient way in which an ordinary skid acted at Blackfriars Bridge—the carter being obliged to use a wisp of straw, the object of keeping the wheel in the skid even then not being effected. On his return home the idea struck him as to how it might be obviated. The result was that he constructed the skid (for which he afterwards took out the patent), and tried it at night down all the London hills with perfect success. He then took out his patent, and his skid was supplied to between 500 and 600 omnibuses, besides other carriages.

Matters went on smoothly with respect to the skids, the plaintiff continuing their manufacture and sale until 1866, when he discovered that the defendant—Mr. Fardell, a carman in Hermitage-street, Wapping—was using similar skids for his vans. The plaintiff remonstrated with the defendant by letter, to which no answer was vouchsafed, but the result was that the use of the skids was discontinued—at least their tails were cut off. But the partiality of the defendant for the plaintiff's skid developed itself again in 1868, when the infringement was discovered, and out of which circumstance arose the suit. The plaintiff was entitled to the perpetual injunction for which he asked; to the delivery up by the defendant of all patented skids in his possession; to an account, and to an inquiry as to damages; and the defendant had to pay all the costs of the suits.



MR. POUPARD'S CURVILINEAR WHEEL SKID.

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HOT.—"Ah! Smith," said impecunious Brown to his friend of the Stock Exchange, "you must be deuced rich." "Yes," replied Smith, "but what's the use? I can't take my money with me to the other world." "Very likely not," was the malicious reply; "if you did, 'twould melt."

A HINT.—The sagacious A. Ward once said he thought it rather improved a comic paper to print a joke now and then.

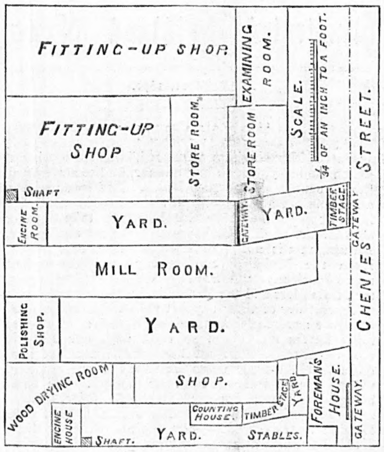
## A VISIT TO A LONDON PIANOFORTE MANUFACTORY.

THE other day we visited the pianoforte manufactory of Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons, of Wigmore-street, London, an illustration of which is given above.

After having been conducted by a member of the firm through the timber yards in Torrington-street and Hertford-place, where there appeared to be enough wood in store to supply all the pianoforte makers in London for years, we were enabled to thoroughly examine the very interesting process of manufacturing that deservedly cherished home treasure, the pianoforte—the "household orchestra" as it has been called. The building, which is situate in Chenies-street, covers nearly an acre of ground—valuable ground it must be, too, here in the heart of London. It has been rebuilt nearly throughout its whole extent, so as to be specially adapted for the manufacture for which it is intended. Here, on our left, we perceive a third timber yard, with its enormous stocks of thoroughly dried timber, seasoned by many years of exposure to atmospheric influence. Between the two sides of the works the stacks of a fourth timber yard raise their giant heads almost to the height of the buildings surrounding them, whilst even the roofs of the buildings themselves are built flat, so as to serve as stages for stacking additional stores of timber.

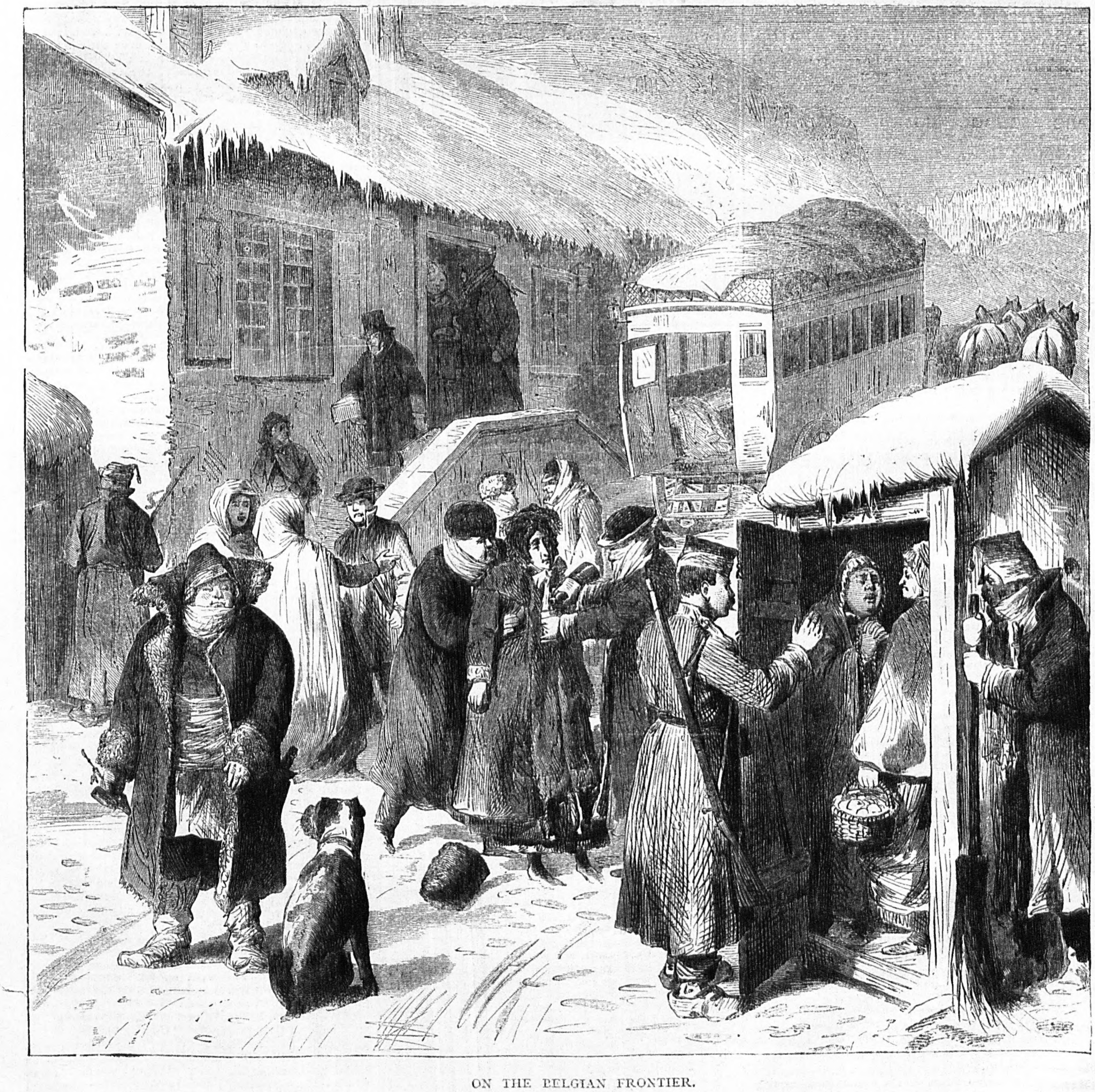
Crossing the bridge which connects two of the factories, we were conducted to one of the engine houses, working the machinery on this side of the works, and then we examined the arrangements for heating the factories, the glue in steam cupboards, and for giving part of the heat requisite for the drying rooms. All of these services, and many others, are most excellently performed by that proverbially good and faithful servant but tyrannical master—steam. Steam is everywhere here, performing all manner of mechanical difficulties, and in every variety of closed receptacles.

Passing into one of the drying rooms, we find that, besides the heat caused by steam rapidly coursing through endless coils of pipes, hot air is carried through larger pipes, producing more than tropical heat to which all the woods are subjected for months before they are manufactured into the respective parts for which they are intended. Here we find each stack and pile of wood labelled with the date of its incarceration in its most uncomfortably warm prison, from which we are only too glad to escape into the more genial warmth of the store rooms, in which the planks of wood, fresh from the mill rooms, where they have been cut and planed into their proper lengths and thicknesses by steam sawing and planing machines, are being rapidly stored away. We enter the rosewood and whitewood veneer store room, and then ascend to the floor set apart for the machinery. Here the roar of the giant circular saws as they continue their apparently unceasing round, the whirr and chatter of their smaller, but not less useful family relatives, and the peculiar noise of their other Lilliputian neighbours, are almost deafening, and cause the whole of the floor to vibrate as tremulously as if it were afflicted with chronic ague. Leaving this department, in which every mechanical contrivance which can perform the requisite labours in a more effective and more economical manner than ordinary manual labours appears to be employed, we pass on to the "Grand," and "Grand Oblique case making department," in which the massive combined wood and metal supports are being fitted together. We now proceed to the "Upright case making room," in which we find timber strengthenings, similar to those we observed below in the drying rooms, having all their moisture baked out of them, being glued together in massive gate-like structures; their apparently unnecessary strength is amply accounted for when we remember the enormous strain caused by the tension of the wires—"strings," they are technically termed—they are intended to resist without yielding an inch of ground or bending to the pressure put upon them by the tightened strings. Were they to yield even an inch in their steady and determined resistance to their foes the strings, that are always striving to crush them, an immediate fall in the pitch of the piano would be occasioned, and a corresponding loss of tone from the pressure on the sounding board, cramping it and spoiling its free vibrations. The solid beams used in this part of the instrument are fortified with a strong metal plate and are assisted in resisting the pressure which sometimes amounts to *sixteen tons*, by most valuable auxiliaries in the shape of metal tubes, placed in a somewhat similar manner to the metallic pillars often employed to assist walls in bearing parts of a building where any weakness is perceptible. This is the more necessary as glueings, however good, will sometimes give way, so should not be depended upon, and the wood itself is sometimes eaten away by most industrious worms, who tunnel their way through the wood until the seemingly sound wood at last gives way, and the piano is spoilt completely. This is, however, fortunately not common in any but extreme climates. Every piece of wood here for the most particular parts has steam forced through it in steam cupboards to destroy these insects before they arrive at maturity, at the same time forcing out all remaining sap, and preventing any possibility of that destructive enemy of wood—"dry rot" putting in an appearance. This process of combining wood and metal to prevent every possibility of failure being completed, the "backs," as they are termed (for a piano has its complete anatomy as such an obedient instrument should have), are now taken up to the rooms in which the sounding boards are made and fitted into them. These sounding boards, we notice, are being made with the greatest care in their manufacture and in the selection of the wood from the finest pine, with most beautifully even grain, cut expressly for this purpose in the mountain forests of Switzerland. We now proceed to the stringing department, where we find these "backs" having their shining breastplates of steel wire fastened upon them. This equally tempered steel wire was almost entirely made in Germany some few years since but it has been so far surpassed by that manufactured in and around Birmingham, that German wire has been entirely superseded in England by it. In this room the perpetual hammering, as the pins with the strings coiled round them are driven into the holes bored in the wrest plank to receive them, and the melancholy sounds the strings produce as they are roughly tuned—"chipped up"—do not cause the elevating effect which well conducted pianofortes are expected to produce; but then these are only in their infancy yet, and infants are expected to be somewhat noisy. We hurry on to the "Fitting-up department," where the backs, now strung, tuned, and covered over, are fitted with the cases and parts supplied by their respective makers. We now visit the rooms in which these parts are made, and learn that the fall, the half-round cylinder covering the key board, is formed by glueing several thicknesses of wood together, shaping them and then, after firmly glueing on the thin layers of valuable veneers, placing the whole, covered by heated cauls or shapes, in the caul-cupboard where they are subjected to great heat from coils of steam-piping. Passing through long rooms completely given up to spirits of every kind with rather unsavoury gums that produce (through the medium of the polishers), what a schoolboy might aptly term—"a capital shine," we arrive at the Finishing Department where the different kinds of mechanism patented by the Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons are fitted into the cases. Amongst these we particularly notice the improvements so justly celebrated for the excellence of the touch and the tone produced by them, and for the apparently endless wear of the mechanism in its original state of perfection. These improvements, which have obtained two medals in Paris (one, the Gold Medal shortly before the Franco-German war), the Prize Medal in the 1862 International Exhibition in London, the Silver Medal at the Netherlands International Exhibition, and numerous other first-class awards, have been patented, and the patent renewed this year, in Prussia, France, Italy, Austria, Belgium and America, as well as in Great Britain, cannot fail to extend the already world wide reputation of the patentees. We now visit the store rooms set apart for the choice walnut burr veneers, where are arranged piles of these delicate and beautifully marked layers of an almost incredible value. Crossing the bridge which connects two of the sides of the works, we are conducted through the store rooms, from which the workmen are supplied with the several parts for their work. Here every portion is marked with the names of the workmen, and the dates on which they were stored away, thus preventing newly manufactured parts being used before they are properly seasoned. We now visit the tuners' rooms, and ascend to the "regulators' department," where the touch is thoroughly adjusted, and whence the finished pianos are lowered by descending platforms to the "examining room," previously to their being allowed to leave for the warerooms in Wigmore-street. Descending the almost interminable flight of stairs to the basement, we find another enormous drying room, and a second steam engine, with its accompanying "mill room," for the heavy sawing and planing. We are now allowed to examine a wonderfully ingenious and simple contrivance, which the Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons have been perfecting for many years, by which the use of wood strengthenings is rendered entirely unnecessary, and by means of which the tone of the instrument is very greatly improved, especially in the treble, that weakest part of most pianofortes. We are unable to explain the principle of this invention, as it has not yet been protected by a patent, but we feel assured it will be invaluable, especially for such climates as the Indian, as these instruments seldom require tuning, and the pitch never varies, whilst the supports cannot be eaten away by the destructive insects so common to all hot countries. Leaving the pleasant summer heat of the works by one of the timber yards, we are out again in the bright sunlight of this beautiful spring morning—all the brighter for its long absence—with a very pleasing recollection of our visit to the pianoforte manufactories of Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons.



PLAN OF MESSRS. JOHN BRINSMEAD AND SONS' PIANOFORTE WORKS.

To Teetotallers.—It has been calculated that 70,000,000 gallons of impure water have been consumed in London during the past month.



ON THE BELGIAN FRONTIER.

BROWN AND POLSON'S
CORN FLOUR
IS GENUINE.
Prepared solely from
Maize—Indian Corn
Best Quality, 2d., 4d., 8d.
Second Quality, 1½d., 3d., 6d.
Beware of
CHEAP QUALITIES BEARING A FALSE NAME.
Depending upon the recommendation of
PROFESSIONAL TESTIMONIAL WRITERS.

BROWN AND POLSON'S
CORN FLOUR,
with Milk for
Children's Diet.

PEARLINA.—BROWN AND POLSON'S
Differs from Corn Flour
in being granulated
and rich in gluten.

PEARLINA.-BROWN AND POLSON'S
For
DELICIOUS PUDDINGS,
in great variety.

PEARLINA.
PLUM PUDDING RECIPE.

Take one teacupful of Pearlina, steep it in one cupful ot milk for an hour, then add half-cupful of flour, three tablespoonfuls of sugar, quarter lb. of suet, two ounces orange peel, quarter lb. raisins, quarter lb. currants; add two eggs, well beaten up, then a teaspoonful of ground cinnamon, and the same of ginger; tie in a bowl or cloth, and boil for three hours.

THIS MAKES IT AS RICH AND LIGHT AS SIX EGGS AND SIX HOURS' BOILING WOULD DO WITHOUT PEARLINA.

BOOSEY AND CO.'S PIANETTES 19 and 26 Guineas; also, PIANOFORTES, by great makers, which have been on hire, many of them nearly new, at greatly reduced prices.—24, Holles-street, London, W. [152

GAS STOVES FOR HEATING BATHS, CHURCHES, HALLS, CONSERVATORIES, *and for Cooking by Gas.* Warranted the best manufactured in the world, at the Original Patentees and Manufacturers,
PHILLIPS AND SON,
25 AND 26, BARBICAN, LONDON, E.C.
(Close to Aldersgate Street Station.)

THE SCHOOL BOARD CHRONICLE of Saturday, March 11, 32 pages (on fine paper, weekly, 6d.), contains among other articles—
Report of the Debate on the "Religious Difficulty" at the London Board.
Reports of the Provincial Boards.
Education in Germany.—No. III. The Church. By W. Hepworth Dixon.
The Education of the Agricultural Labourer.—No. II. Modern Influences.
What the London Board May Do. By Edwin Goadby.
Letters on the Sanitary Aspect of the Education Question. The Plural Verb, &c., &c.
Gossip of the Schools.
Answers to Correspondents.
REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS:—Latin School Books; Music; Health; French Educational Works, &c.
Published by Grant & Co., 72, Turnmill Street, E. C.;
and Sold by all Newsagents.

NOTICE.

With next week's Number will be published
A HANDSOME
LITHOGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENT,
CONTAINING
LARGE SIZE PORTRAITS OF
THE PRINCESS LOUISE
AND
THE MARQUIS OF LORNE,
*FOR FRAMING.*
PRICE OF PAPER AND SUPPLEMENT 6D.

The reissue of the same Supplement during two weeks is adopted for the purpose of preventing disappointment. Purchasers of the Supplement next week will be supplied the following week with the paper separately (at 3d.) or with the Supplement at their option.

## NOTICES.

THE London Publishing Office of this paper is at 102, Fleet-street, where the trade can now be supplied early on Friday mornings. The head offices for the country are at 108, New-street, Birmingham. Any business information can be obtained at either of these establishments.

COMMUNICATIONS for the Editor or Publisher should be addressed to 102 Fleet-street, London.

ADVERTISEMENTS are inserted at the rate of 1s. a line, space being charged as lines, and 20 per cent. extra for blocks. Special rates from 1s. 6d. a line are charged for announcements in this page. Illustrated and double column Advertisements can only be inserted in the fourteenth and fifteenth pages.

THE paper will be delivered to the public by any News-agent in London or Birmingham, or direct from the Birmingham Office, at 13s. a-year; or free by post from London for 15s., pre-paid.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS is now an established medium for public announcements. It combines with a first-class country circulation a growing and not unimportant London Sale. With a view to meet the increased demand for the paper, special publishing offices have been opened at 102, Fleet-street, in addition to those in Birmingham. THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS may now fairly claim to be regarded by London Advertisers not only as a country but a London paper. Arrangements are being made for a Special Supplement in commemoration of the marriage of the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne.

NOTICE.
TO THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS-TRADE,
ADVERTISERS, &c.

ON and after March 18 the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS will be published in Birmingham by MESSRS. W. H. SMITH AND SONS, who will supply the news-trade of Birmingham on the same terms as those of the Head Office in London.

MESSRS. W. H. SMITH AND SONS will also receive Advertisements for Birmingham and the district.

Illustrated Midland News.

*MARCH* 11, 1871.

## "ONWARD!"

THE motto of Birmingham, "Onward," was the sentiment which we inscribed on our banner at the starting of the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS. Led by so worthy an example, the metropolis of the Midlands will be the last to complain that we are about to take another step further afield. We have outgrown our birth place. Birmingham is not large enough for our aspirations. Even the Midlands confine our ambition in too narrow a circle. "Onward!" With a sincere regard for Midlanders and the Midlands, and a determination to be worthier of their support than we have hitherto been, we nevertheless emancipate ourselves from mere local fetters and claim to rank with our London contemporaries. The mechanical difficulties of production which beset us on all hands in the country, will no longer interfere with our labours. We shall bring to bear upon our work all the facilities, artistic and mechanical, which London supplies; and with London as the centre of our operations, we shall be enabled to publish the paper with greater success in Birmingham.

Henceforth, the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS will be a paper for town and country, for London and the provinces, for England, Ireland, Scotland, and the Colonies. Already it counts its subscribers in every part of the United Kingdom, and in America, Australia, and the Cape. With these as a nucleus, the proprietors hope ere long to augment the sale of their paper by many thousands. The Editor feels that he cannot do better than let the proprietors and the new managers speak for themselves through the following circulars which are being addressed to the news-trade and the general public.

NOTICE.
TO THE NEWS TRADE AND THE PUBLIC.

THE Proprietors of "THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS" beg to state that when they transferred their head quarters from Birmingham to London arrangements were pending, which are now completed, for taking full advantage of the success of their enterprise.

"THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS" has outgrown its local character. Its subscribers are scattered throughout the United Kingdom, and its sale in London and the South of England has long pointed to the necessity for a more complete representation of the general public who have supported it outside its original home in Birmingham and the Midlands. The Proprietors have therefore determined to make their paper worthy of the higher mission to which their numerous patrons call it. While always showing a kindly regard for the Midlands, they now propose to cater for the United Kingdom, and to enable them to do this worthily and well, they have made arrangements with the eminent firm of GRANT & CO. (who printed their latest coloured supplement), whereby they will have the benefit of all this firm's well known facilities for producing and printing illustrations.

Messrs. GRANT & CO. will, in future, print and publish the paper, and the Proprietors, while earnestly thanking their Midland friends and the Public generally for their support, trust that the increased attractions of their journal will make it not only more popular in the Midlands, but a familiar weekly guest in the homes of England, Ireland, and Scotland.

102, FLEET STREET, LONDON,
AND 108, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM,
*March* 10, 1871.

PUBLISHING OFFICES, 102, FLEET STREET. } LONDON, E.C.
PRINTING WORKS, 72 to 76, TURNMILL ST. }
*March* 10, 1871.

SIR,

We beg respectfully to call your attention to the foregoing Notice.

In order to give the "MIDLAND NEWS" that general character which can alone entitle it to acceptance in all parts of the United Kingdom, we propose in the first place to modify its title. From the 18th of March it will be called

"THE ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER."

In the next place, we shall make it in every way worthy of general popularity by introducing into it numerous original and attractive Engravings of universal interest; and also occasional Pictorial Novelties never before attempted in connection with illustrated journalism. An example of our intentions upon this point will be given in illustration of the Royal Marriage.

In addition to other Supplements, we shall Publish during every year four magnificent Chromo-typo-Lithographs (from original paintings), equal in themselves to a guinea's worth of Pictures for framing, and worthy of a place in the mansions of the rich as well as in the cottages of the poor.

"THE ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER" will be the best and cheapest work of its kind ever produced.

We shall supply the News Trade on the usual terms, and every attention will be given to the dispatch of an early supply to all parts of the kingdom. The Country Trade can be supplied direct where large parcels are required; but orders for less than One Quire should be sent to a London Agent.

Your Obedient Servants,
GRANT & CO.

Onward! No change will take place in the conduct of the paper that is not in keeping with the Midland motto. Studiously ignoring in our pictures, and in our reading matter and advertisements, all subjects and announcements that will not bear examination in the home circle, we have always enjoyed a special recognition as a family paper.

Next week we begin our new series. We earnestly solicit for it continued support at the hands of our present subscribers, and the generous consideration of all classes of the public.

## MR. ODO RUSSELL AND THE TREATY OF 1856.

THE following dispatch from Mr. Odo Russell to Earl Granville has been laid before Parliament:

"Versailles, February 27, 1871.

"My Lord,—I see by the Parliamentary reports in the *Times* of the 17th and 25th instant that a question has arisen in regard to the argument used by me and published in the correspondence respecting the Treaty of 1856, page 45, No. 76, of the 22nd of November last, to the effect that the 'question raised by Prince Gortchakoff was of a nature in its present state to compel us, with or without allies, to go to war with Russia.' As it may be convenient that I should place on record for future reference the reasons which induced me to use that argument, the responsibility of which must rest on me and on me alone, I have the honour to state; 1st. That we are bound by the Tripartite Treaty of the 15th April, 1856, to consider an infraction of the Treaty of the 30th of March, 1856, as a *casus belli.* 2nd. That Prince Gortchakoff's notes of October 19 (31), and of October 20 (November 1), assuming the right to renounce the stipulations of that Treaty which directly touched her interests, appeared to me to involve the assumption of a right to renounce the whole of the treaty. 3rd. That her Majesty's Government had declared on the 10th of November last that it was impossible on their part to give any sanction to the course announced by Prince Gortchakoff. 4th. That this renunciation by Prussia, which her Majesty's Government could not sanction, of a portion of the Treaty of March 30, 1856, opened a discussion which might unsettle the cordial understanding between the two Governments, because it was of a nature in its present state—that is, in the state it was on the 22nd of November last, to compel us to go to war in virtue of the Tripartite Treaty of the 15th of April, 1856, by which we had bound ourselves to consider any infraction of the Treaty of the 30th of March Russia was then renouncing, as a *casus belli.* 5th. That France being then otherwise engaged and Austria unprepared, we might be compelled to go to war with Russia, even without allies, having bound ourselves on the 15th of April, 1856, to guarantee, jointly and severally, the stipulations recorded in the Treaty of the 30th March, 1856, threatened by the assumed right of renunciation by Russia, which her Majesty's Government declined to sanction. 6th. That not having been instructed to state that the question I had been sent to submit to the Prussian Government was not, in the opinion of her Majesty's Government, of a nature to compel us ever to go to war, notwithstanding our Treaty engagements, I used the arguments which I believed in my conscience to be true.—I have, &c., "ODO RUSSELL."

Mr. BASS, M.P., has made a very handsome present to the town of Derby, of which he is a representative. It consists of free baths for the general use of the inhabitants. The welcome reception of this gift has not been altogether unqualified. At a recent Town Council meeting, when the subject was under discussion, a Mr. Leech "could not help thinking that Mr. Bass had not been made fully acquainted with all the circumstances, and the present position of the baths of Derby. It was a well-known fact that the swimming-baths in Full-street, including the one for which the working classes paid 2d, per head, were the only source of profit, whilst the warm baths were a dead loss to the town, and as a whole the baths were a pecuniary incumbrance upon the ratepayers of the town. It would be obvious, therefore, that if Mr. Bass's scheme of free baths were proceeded with, those already belonging to the town and supported by the ratepayers would be very much damaged, if not absolutely ruined, in a pecuniary sense." Fortunately for the people of Derby, Mr. Leech's speech did not make much impression. There are some towns wanting baths, but not so fortunate as Derby, that would accept such a present without a protest like that of Mr. Leech.

NOT HIS OWN HEAD.—R. W. would stand for hours in one attitude, rigid as if his delusion was the Gorgon's head projected on to an aery Ægis. A stalactite dripped from his unbraced jaw. He was thin and pale, and seemed to be dying. At the same time another patient in the same ward was dying of phthisis. He died! and there he lay on his bed! He had been called T———. As he lay there, R. W. looked into his room. It was ghastly enough, and he stood there at the door until he was removed. That same afternoon, W. went into the lavatory and was passing a large mirror. He stopped suddenly, and exclaimed, "Good God! I've got T———'s head on." He came to this conclusion not without wonder and even with grief. He preferred his own head! Minute examination convinced him of the fact of this strange transmigration of heads. When the medical superintendent of the establishment next visited the ward, W. met him with tears in his eyes, and said, "This is not my head, doctor. Just look at it! This is not my nose! Such a nose! It is T———'s." The medical man looked, and he thought the head and face somewhat like those of the patient who had died that morning. The one man was dead, and the other was dying. Leave death alone and it soon makes all men alike. You would not know your dearest friend's skeleton! W.'s was a natural mistake, but he sorrowed and moaned, and there was no Titania to love him with T———'s head! Perhaps it was the nose! He wished to dash out T———'s brains, and often he would slap T——'s face and pull T——'s nose! That horrid nose. This went on for three weeks. At lasttthe medical superintendent of the institution determined to try an experiment. He went into the ward, met W., stopped suddenly, and exclaimed as he held up his hands in pseudo-wonder, "Good gracious! When did the change take place? When did you get it back again?" "What!" exclaimed W. in surprise, as he raised his hands to his head. "What! you don't mean to say—Doctor?—but, I declare—yes—it is—Doctor, I *am* rejoiced!"—*Gentleman's Magazine for March*

## PARLIAMENT.

Thursday, March 2.—In the House of Lords the Pauper Inmates Discharge and Regulation Bill passed through Committee; and Lord Harrowby ascertained from Lord Lyttelton that the Governors of Dulwich College having failed to draw up a scheme for the government of that institution, the Endowed Schools Commissioners are about to undertake the task. The most interesting information elicited by the inquiries addressed to Ministers in the House of Commons was that in the present state of public business Mr. Bruce has no reason to doubt that he shall be able to introduce the Licensing Bill before Easter. The adjourned debate upon the Marquis of Hartington's motion for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the existence of unlawful combinations in Westmeath and elsewhere was proceeded with, the result being that the motion was negatived by a majority of 119—297 to 178. The Ecclesiastical Titles Act Repeal Bill was referred to a Select Committee, and after disposing of some other business, the House adjourned.

Friday.—In the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor introduced a Lectionary Bill, which he described as similar to the measure of last session, and there was a short conversation upon the subject. In the House of Commons, Sir Robert Peel, in calling attention to the circumstances under which Lord Lyons left Paris on the 17th September, dwelt upon Lord Granville's repeated instructions that he should remain, and his own protestations up to the 12th September that he desired to stay, and attributed his final departure—or as the hon. baronet called it, his "flight"—to the persuasions of Prince Metternich. The date of his departure was especially ill chosen, as it took place while M. Jules Favre was negotiating with Count Bismarck, and when the influence of a British Ambassador might have had a most beneficial effect; and the absence of our Ambassador at the time when M. Thiers was negotiating with the Prussian Chancellor in October was still more injurious to the prospects of peace. The question upon which those negotiations went off was that of the revictualling of Paris, and if Lord Lyons had been upon the spot, he could have informed M. Thiers that it was not necessary to insist upon that point. Mr. F. Goldsmid approved of the conduct of Lord Lyons in quitting Paris, and Mr. Gladstone declared that Lord Lyons had acted upon rules and considerations supplied to him by the Government, and that, therefore, if he had done wrong, not he, but the Ministry, was responsible. The Government were anxious that he should be in a position to communicate both with them and with a French Government; and therefore they considered that he had exercised a wise discretion in going to Tours.

Monday.—In the House of Lords the Marquis of Salisbury called attention to the extent of our foreign guarantees, and to the deficiency of our miltary forces. Reminding their lordships that we had guaranteed the independence of Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, and Sweden, he maintained that, practically, the frontiers of the guaranteed countries became our own, and therefore we could not rely entirely upon our navy, or upon the "little streak of silver sea;" but must either maintain a military force which would be adequate to enable us to fulfil our obligations, or must modify or abandon them. All foreign Governments were acquainted with the weakness of our military system, and hence arose the importance of our words in the councils of Europe; and it was absolutely necessary that the Government should either abandon a system of "permanent braggadocio," or adapt their military forces to their promises. Earl Granville characterised the speech of the noble marquis as so full of exaggerations as to render it useless for any national object. Fastening upon a quotation which he had made from the non-official part of the *Versailles Moniteur*, to show that England has now no influence in Europe, he informed their lordships that the German Foreign Minister had expressed his regret that such a statement should have appeared, and maintained that the fact of the Conference upon the Black Sea question being sitting in London, and the appeals which had been addressed to us by both belligerents during the war, showed that they did not think we were so feeble or helpless as the noble lord asserted. The noble earl entirely declined to lay down any general principles as to our obligations under the guarantees which we have given, but utterly denied that we were unable to fulfil them; and, while congratulating himself and the Government upon having kept the country out of war during the past year, repudiated any intention to adopt a system of braggadocio, either permanent or temporary. The Earl of Malmesbury agreed with Lord Salisbury that we were not prepared to fulfil our engagements, and at the same time called their lordships' attention to the fact that public morality in Europe had sunk to so low an ebb that might was rapidly becoming right. Lord Lauderdale expressed his doubts as to the efficiency of our navy; and when Lord Grey had expressed his dissatisfaction with the answer of the Foreign Secretary, Lord Salisbury's motion for the reprinting of the guarantees, to which Lord Granville had made no objection, was agreed to. In the House of Commons, Mr. Cardwell moved the second reading of the Army Regulation Bill, and after a long discussion, the debate was, on the motion of Lord Elcho, adjourned till Thursday.

Tuesday.—The House of Lords sat for about two hours and a quarter last night; and the greater part of the sitting was occupied with a discussion as to the command of the Cornwall Rangers, which excited a good deal of heat, and involved several personal questions. In the House of Commons, the Dean and Chapter of Durham, Mr. Samuelson, moved the appointment of a committee to inquire into the law, practice, and effects of letters patent for invention, and the motion was agreed to without a division. Mr. Dixon obtained leave to bring in a Bill to repeal the cumulative voting clauses of the Education Act of last year; and when some other business had been disposed of, the House adjourned.

Wednesday.—The early hours of the sitting of the House of Commons were occupied with the discussion of Mr. Loch's measure for the amendment of Scotch Game laws. The hon. member for Wick, in moving the second reading of the Bill, dwelt upon the evils which were caused by the excessive preservation of ground game—to which alone the measure applied—and justified at length the clause which would interfere with the freedom of contract between landlords and tenants. Lord Garlies at the close of the debate, moved the rejection of the Bill, and upon a division he carried this proposal by a majority of 69—154 to 85. The second reading of Mr. Wheelhouse's Bill to provide for the education of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind was strenuously opposed by Mr. Hibbert, the new Secretary of the Poor Law Board, who questioned the policy and criticised the provisions of the measure, which, after a short discussion was negatived without a division.

The Future of France.—The *Journal des Debats*, which reappeared on Friday after its temporary suspension during the German occupation, contains an article by M. John Lemoinne, in which he says:—"Stretched upon her bed of sickness during long days and tedious nights, France, with fevered eyes, with burning cheeks, has awaited the verdict of those who are styled men of art. They have spoken; they have prescribed amputation and copious bleeding. Such it is we are now undergoing. The country's blood is flowing and issuing from every pore. We seem hardly to comprehend, or to feel, or to be aware of it. We are like sufferers who are made unconscious by chloroform. But when we shall awake from this feverish slumber, when we feel about for our hand, our arm, and find them gone, what an awakening! And yet we must arouse ourselves; the weary pilgrimage of life and labour must be resumed. The present generation will not reap the fruits; they have witnessed too much not to be for ever disheartened, and they can say to Fortune, '*Nous nous connaissons trop pour nous tromper encore.*' But the future does not belong to us. If we were to yield to selfish and personal sentiments, we should bequeath to the generations which will succeed us the watchword of 'Vengeance.' Upon the bed of anguish to which mutilated France is now condemned we should have to pronounce but three words—'Silence, patience'—the third word we have no right to pronounce. We have not a right to dispose of the blood and lives of those who will come after us. Our sole duty is to render them capable of thinking and acting for themselves, and to themselves alone will belong the right of one day deciding whether they will seek vengeance for the blood of their fathers. It is enough for us to leave them a dismembered and crippled country, and a debt which will be a heavy burden to their children's children. And who knows? Who can tell whether the bitterly rancorous feelings which now fill even grave and reflecting minds will survive a few years? See what a spectacle Paris presents. As if in extreme irony, an unclouded sun shone upon the violation of our great city. With but a slight variation of the language of the Latin historian, we may say, '*Diem sideribus illustrem ad perpetrandum facinus Dii dedêre.*' Within the city every open space is closed—the streets are empty. Paris for a few hours is a desert, But the desire for seeing and moving about is too strong, and all Paris rushes forth as the inhabitants of an anthill. When we look to-day upon the quays, the boulevards, and the great public thoroughfares, we recall the English legend of Lady Godiva, in which the feudal lord, upon the intercession of his countess, consented to withdraw a tax upon his citizens provided she would ride naked through the town. She, after a struggle, suffered her pity to overcome her modesty and consented to make the sacrifice, but sent a herald through the town beseeching all persons to keep within doors and not look into the streets, a behest that was obeyed by all save one despicable creature, whose eyes, the legend says, were blinded before the object of his wicked curiosity came within view; and the tax was abolished. Oh! you Parisians who cannot resist either the sun or curiosity, who run to gaze at the pointed and glittering helmets of your conquerors as though you had only lost a stage battle, think over this legend. Remind yourselves that is to ransom one of your fortresses, to purchase peace for all France, that your city undergoes this extreme humiliation. Say to yourselves that it is its body which in its outraged and bleeding nakedness is borne upon a soldier's saddle to be exhibited to your gaze. Open not your eyes, and may those who yield to impious temptation be smitten with blindness, and may their eyes be dried up in their sockets. But alas! We very much fear that our population is always the same, with all its faults and all its good qualities: a population essentially feminine in its character, capable of the utmost heroism and of the utmost weakness, passing from the extreme of resistance to the extreme of indifference, and able to die or to surrender with equal facility. We read at this moment the despatch addressed by the Emperor of Germany to the King of Bavaria, in which, after the usual expression of thankfulness to Providence, he says, 'Thus closes a glorious but sanguinary war, which was forced upon us by a frivolity quite unparalleled.' Let us ponder over this hard saying: let us no longer be a frivolous people."

Maravilla Cocoa for Breakfast.—The *Globe* says—Taylor Brothers Maravilla Cocoa has achieved a thorough success, and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, delicate aroma, and all the concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage.—Sold in packets only, by all grocers. Sole proprietors, Taylor Brothers, London. [272

Patent Teeth on Soft Gums.—Mr. William J. Watson, Surgeon Dentist, 16, Newhall-street, Birmingham, begs to inform the inhabitants of the Midland Counties, that he is the SOLE INVENTOR and DISCOVERER of a new system of fixing PATENT TEETH on SOFT GUMS, and he being the actual Maker is enabled to supply Teeth *at about one-third the usual charges*. Single Teeth from 3s. 6d. each; Sets from £2 10s., including all charges. Perfectly fitted at one visit. Attendance daily from nine a.m. till eight p.m. Consultation free. [164

## THE SWING.

It stands, no beauty on the lawn,
  Though beautiful to me,
The rugged, crooked, gnarled, stunted,
  Blossoming apple-tree.
I love to see it rich with blooms,
  Or white with feathery snow,
Ripening thoughts as well as apples,
  Out of the Long-Ago.

Twelve summers up the stream of Time;
  It seems but yesterday;
I made a swing from its sturdiest bough,
  In a morn of merry May.
And from it swung my love, my life,
  In the flush of her sunny youth;
And I wooed her shyly, won her bravely,
  With all her love and truth.

And now I swing another as fair,
  She's nine years old or ten,
And she laughs and sings, and shouts "Papa!
  Swing me again! again!"
And I swing her again and kiss her.
  "Don't kick at the stars!" I cry,
And she crackles with laughter, and says "I will,
  If you'll swing me up as high!"

Gnarly, crooked, rugged, stunted,
  Blossoming apple-bough!
I do not know in the wide, wide world
  Another as fair as thou!
Three loves, three lives, three spirits of Hope,
  Amid thy leaves are hidden,
And thy fruit is a fruit of Paradise,
  Pleasant and unforbidden.

## INCIDENTS OF THE WEEK.

The *Daily News* says preparations were being made on Saturday, at Camden House, Chiselhurst-common, the residence of the Empress Eugenie, for the immediate arrival of the ex-Emperor Napoleon from his German captivity. Notwithstanding the rumours as to the purchase of an estate in Bohemia for the ex-Emperor, it is confidently stated at Chiselhurst that he will rejoin the ex-Empress within a few days (if he as not done so already) and will, for the present at least, take up his residence in England. The Empress and Prince Imperial frequently walk about the neighbourhood unattended, and now excite but little curiosity amongst the rural population. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur occasionally rides over from Woolwich on a visit to the illustrious exiles.

The passenger traffic between Southampton and France, which was almost totally suspended during the war, has immensely increased since the peace. Large quantities of cotton are now also being shipped at Southampton for Havre. Horses still continue to be exported to France in the Southampton steamers.

Lord Henry Somerset was elected for Monmouthshire on Saturday without opposition. His lordship avowed himself a Conservative, and deplored the condition of the army and navy. Government mismanagement had, he said, reduced England to the lowest ebb in the eyes of the world and in the councils of Europe. He criticised the Government's Irish policy, and advocated the maintenance of the connection between Church and State. He opposed the ballot, but thought it would be more a Conservative than a Liberal measure.

The London School Board have determined not to make any permanent arrangement at present with regard to the appointment of a solicitor. Such legal business as may arise will be entrusted to a solicitor or firm of high standing, who will be remunerated by the usual legal charges in each case. It is understood that the Committee, to whom the selection has been entrusted, will present six names to the Board, and that no applications can be received by the Committee after the 15th March.

The new American Congress comprises 131 Republicans and 96 Democrats.

A new Russian sect, that of the "Sighers," has just been formed at Kalouga. This sect believes that the time has now come which was foretold by the prophet David, when there should be no true church on earth, and when all men can do is to send up their sighs to Heaven and pray for salvation. The "sighers" have no churches, priests, or religious ceremonies of any kind.

A large number of forged Republican bank notes are in circulation in France.

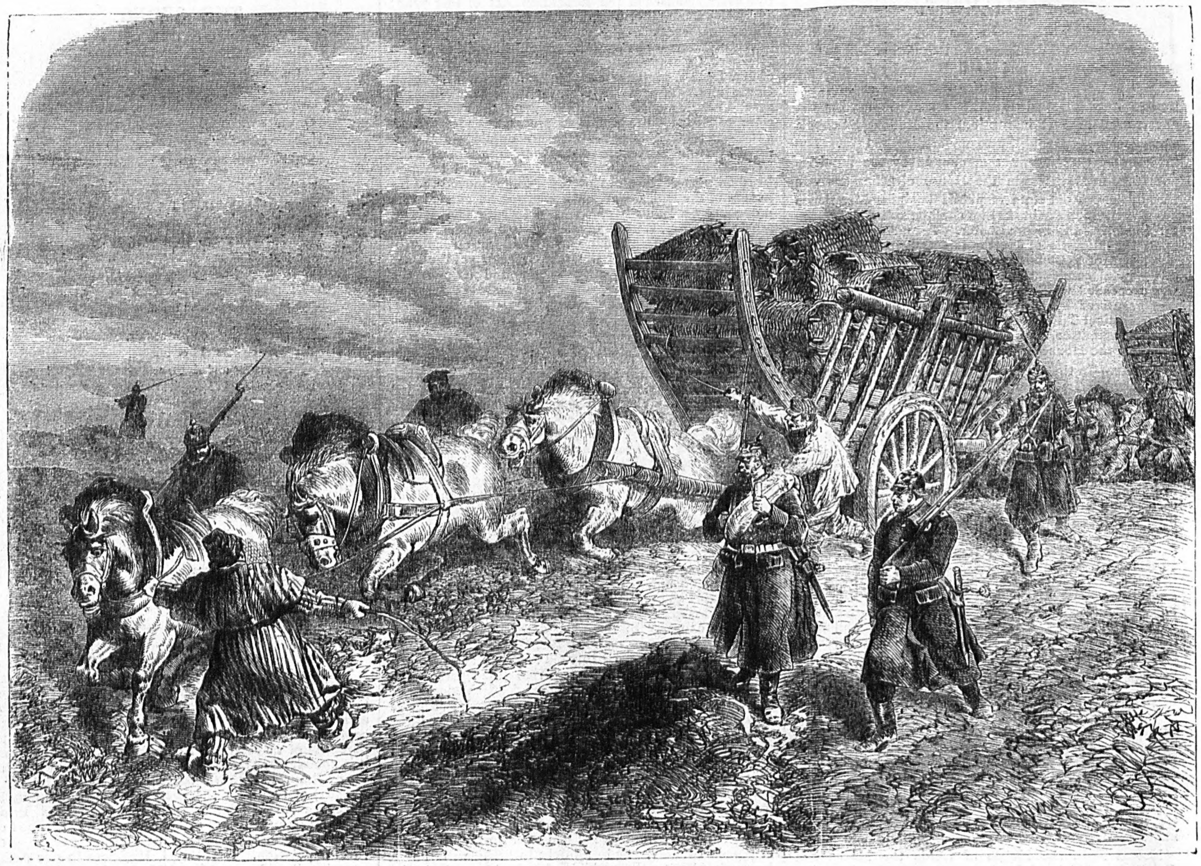
From the *Liverpool Mercury* we learn that the mortality in that town from small-pox is rapidly decreasing, the number of deaths in the week having fallen from 129 to 89.

Scarlet fever prevails to such an extent at Oxford that the authorities of some of the colleges have already sent their men down, while others do so at the earliest possible moment. Term will not, however, legally end until Saturday, April 1st, the last degree day.

It is reported at St. Petersburg, says the *Eastern Budget*, that preparations are being made on a grand scale for a Russian expedition against the Khan of Khiva.

The Emperor Napoleon, according to a telegram from Brussels, will not leave Wilhelmshohe for England until after the ratification of the treaty of peace to take place in that city.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre will be the new Secretary of the Admiralty in place of Mr. Baxter, who has succeeded Mr. Stansfeld at the Treasury.



BRINGING UP MATERIAL FOR TRENCHES.

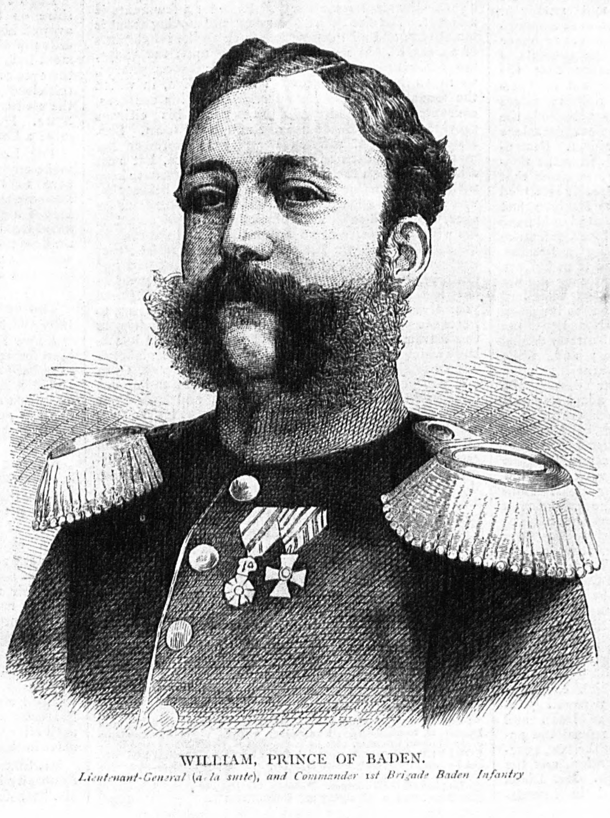
## WILLIAM PRINCE OF BADEN.

THE name of this Prince has during the last ten years been frequently and honourably known in connection with German affairs, military as well as political. It is a matter of surprise that during the present war it should not be found among those of the first military rank; and that Prince William of Baden should not have been entrusted with a higher command than that of the 1st Brigade of Baden Infantry. But although in so comparatively humble a position, in the engagements at Nuits, near Dijon, on 18th December last year, the Prince led his Badeners with so much skill and bravery, and contributed so materially to the fearfully bloody victory obtained by the Germans, that he won applause and admiration not exceeded in degree by what has been accorded to any of the most brilliant affairs of the war. Having unfortunately been wounded in the head, he was obliged to retire from the field before the completion of the victory which he had nearly gained.

Prince Ludwig Wilhelm August is the next younger brother of the reigning Grand Duke of Baden. He was born on 18th December, 1829. The affair of Nuits was fought on the 41st anniversary of his birthday. At first instructed at home under the immediate superintendence of his parents, he was ultimately sent to the University. Having passed through the lower grades in the Baden troops, he became first-lieutenant in the 1st Prussian Foot Guards, 1849. He gradually rose to the rank of Major, and in 1856 held this post in the Artillery, and in 1861 was Brigadier in the same department. In the following year he was appointed one of the Artillery Enquiry Commission, of which he remained a member until he retired from active service in the Prussian army in 1863. He still belongs to the Prussian army, but in the supernumerary relation known as "à la suite," and has been Lieutenant-General since 1866.

He has been during the last ten years a fast supporter of the German-national movement and of the Prussian interest in Baden and southern Germany—a position which has obtained for him many friends and many enemies. In the year 1860, there was much commotion among the Badenese, who were resisting the efforts of the Ultramontane party and their friends in office to control the religious freedom of the Grand Dukedom. The Prince with energy took the side of the people and liberty, and so successfully did he labour on this point, and in his capacity of President of the First Chamber, that he may be said to have inaugurated a new era for Baden, and thereby won the gratitude of all parties except the one he was obliged to oppose. On the 11th of Feburary, 1863, he married the Princess Maria Maximilianowaa Romonowska, a daughter of the deceased duke, Max of Leuchtenberg.

In many instances of late years, the internal affairs of Germany have been of a more than ordinarily delicate nature, requiring more than common qualifications on the part of those who have been parties in their development. In many of these instances, in all in which he had to act, the Prince William of Baden has skilfully and honestly performed his part. And the Germans have as much cause to honour him as a politician as to admire him has a soldier.



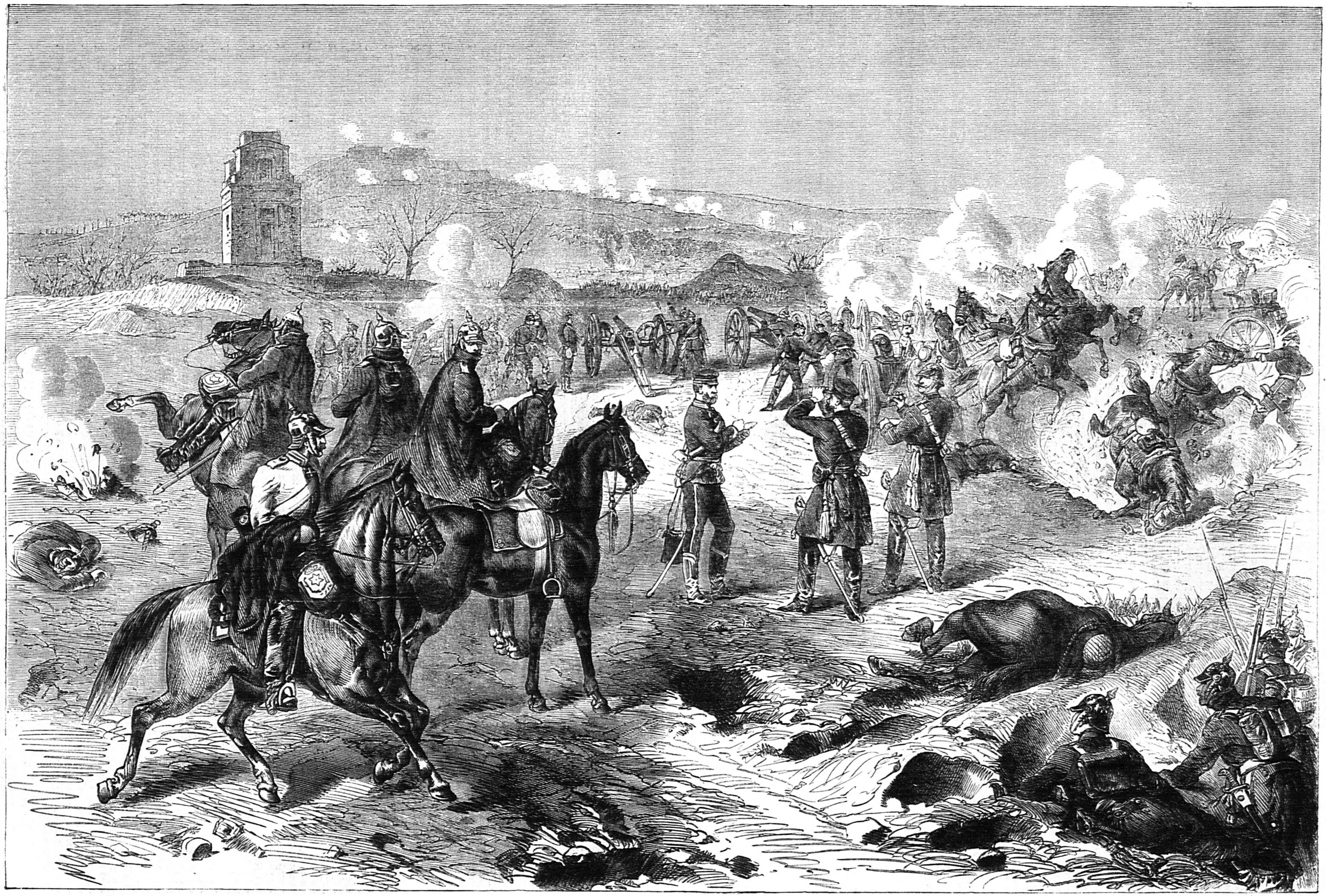
WILLIAM, PRINCE OF BADEN.

*Lieutenant-General (a la suite), and Commander 1st Brigade Baden Infantry*

THE GAMBLING TABLE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—Last winter the police very rigorously and properly suppressed the various public gaming tables in Pera, which had been carried on for some years previously in the most unblushing manner, and to the ruin of numbers of their thoughtless frequenters. This year many of these *tapisverts* have cropped up again, though in a more stealthy way, and last week the police agents of Fikri Bey made a sudden *razzia* upon three of them, one in the Rue Venedyk, another at the Alcazar, and another at Sponnek's in the Grande Rue, catching some of the croupiers, bonnets, and pigeons *in flagrante delicto*, and seizing a quantity of gaming implements and a considerabie sum of money.—*Levant Herald.*

NATIVE THEORIES OF EARTHQUAKES.—There are various theories of the cause of earthquakes. By a Surat pager we are informed that the uneducated Hindoos there "believe that when the world becomes sinful, the 'Shes Nag' (a kind of serpent on whom the world stands, turns its side and hence such shocks of earthquakes are felt." A correspondent at Gowhatty, in Assam, mentions another popular notion:—"At about 11 p.m, on Friday, the 27th, we were rudely roused from sleep by a heavy shock of earthquake. It seemed as if a giant had jumped on my bungalow. Hence the belief among the natives in Assam that earthquakes are caused by the periodical leaps of mountain gods from one mountain to another."—*Bombay Gazette.*

YOUNG men who go to see girls have adopted a novel method of obtaining kisses. They assert, on the authority of scientific writers, that the concussion produced by a kiss will cause the flame of a gas jet to flicker, and easily induce the girl to experiment in the interest of science. The first kiss or two, the parties watch the flame to see it flicker; but soon become so interested in the experiments as to let it flicker if it wants to.



BEFORE PARIS: SETTING THE ARTILLERY OF THE 4TH ARMY CORPS ON THE 19TH JANUARY.

## "SWEET VIOLETS."

"Violets, sweet violets! all April's in the cry!"—LEIGH HUNT.

MY Isabel, do you remember
How, in the fitful April weather,
Through squares and terraces suburban
We, plighted lovers, walked together,
While, shrill beneath the changeful sky,
Rang out the violet-seller's cry?

Ah, Love, how bright those hastening hours!
How fair the hopes that shone before us!
For us the Earth put forth her flowers,
For us the blackbirds sang their chorus,
And Spring herself seemed only made
To glad us with her light and shade.

And still I see your sweet face soften
With tender smile and pensive pity,
As in our path we meet a maiden—
A child waif from the seething city;
And still rings out the violet cry,
And still the changing clouds flit by.

Last week I passed you in the Park,
Last night I met you at a *soirée*;
I watch'd your fair head meekly bent
Above the last *chef-d'œuvre* by Doré;
But your heart's hidden mystery
'Tis not for mortal eye to see.

Enough that since that bygone spring-time,
When we two lovers walk'd together,
Your heart has caught a trick of changing,
Capricious as that April weather;
And the lorn violet-seller's cry
Sounds like a dirge as I go by.

Your bouquets now are rare exotics,
Imported from far Southern bowers;
But who shall say those splendid blossoms
Are sweeter than my lowly flowers—
The violets that we stopp'd to buy
Beneath the sunlit April sky?

Alas! 'twas then our spring-time, dearest,
And o'er life's path there shone a glory,
While all our footfalls went to music,
Like mystic lute in fairy story:
But now youth's glamour shines no more
On the dull earth we wander o'er.

Some day perchance, for mere distraction,
You'll ransack a forgotten casket,
And light upon the faded posy
I gave you from the vagrant's basket;
And those poor wither'd flowers shall be
Almost a link 'twixt you and me.

## ON THE BELGIAN FRONTIER.

BEFORE the siege of Montmedy, the inhabitants, half dead with fright, left their homes and goods behind them to take refuge in the neighbouring ports of Belgium. Our picture in another part of the paper represent travellers from Montmedy on their way to Virton. The rinderpest had appeared in parts of Germany, and the Belgian Government instituted certain arrangements to prevent the plague being communicated to the cattle of their country. Out of Belgium everybody was allowed to proceed unmolested, but all in passing had to submit to a process of fumigation for the purpose of purifying them. They were placed in a wooden box as will be seen in our engraving, and then operated upon. Some thought they were being led to the slaughter and tried to escape, others understood the arrangement but thought they were required to undress. It must have been very amusing we should imagine to all but the victims.

PURE WATER.—ALFRED BIRD, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new CARBON FILTER, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Worcester-street, Birmingham. [930

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, TIC DOLOREUX.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE effects a certain cure.—Depôt, 39, Ann-street. Sold by all Chemists; and Gare, Green, Bagott, of Dudley. [107

THE HAIR.—THE PLAIN TRUTH.—Mrs. Allen's World's Hair Restorer will positively restore the natural original colour in every case of greyness, no matter from what cause it arises, and the hair is stimulated to natural growth. The "Zylobalsamum," as a hair-dressing for young and old, is the best article that can be used; it imparts a gloss and vigorous appearance to the hair very beautiful to see. The Restorer, 6s.; the Zylobalsamum, 3s.; in large bottles only.—Depot, 266, High Holborn, London. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. [189

FLORILINE!!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the FRAGRANT FLORILINE on a wet tooth brush produces a delightful foam, which cleanses the Teeth from all impurities, strengthens and hardens the gums, prevents tartar, and arrests the progress of decay. It gives to the Teeth a peculiar and beautiful whiteness, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed Teeth, a disordered stomach, or tobacco smoke. The Fragrant Floriline is purely vegetable, and equally adapted to old and young. It is the greatest Toilet discovery of the age. Sold in elegant cases, complete, at 2s. 6d., by all Chemists and Perfumers.—H. C. GALLUP, Proprietor, 493, Oxford-street, London. [156

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. [694

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS are admirably adapted for curing diseases incidental to females. At various periods of life women are subject to complaints which require a peculiar medicine; and it is now a demonstrable fact that there is none so suitable as Holloway's Pills. For all the debilitating disorders incidental to the sex, and in every contingency perilous to the life and health of woman—youthful or aged, married or single—this great regulator and renovator of the secretive organs and the nervous system is an immediate cure. Their purifying qualities render them invaluable to females at all ages. They are searching and cleansing, yet invigorating; a few doses will speedily remove every species of irregularity in the system, and thereby establish health on a sound and firm basis.

## THE STATE OF PARIS.

THE special correspondent of the *Daily News* writing from Paris on Monday evening, sends the following:—

"The worst of Paris is, that we never know when we are happy, and, in the midst of apparent calm, we may be on the point of war. If you were to come into Paris to-day, you would see all the signs of peace and pleasure, and would be little inclined to imagine that there is a storm brewing anywhere. Here are the shops all open and full of tempting things, reminding one as of old that we are but butterflies, and that we have nothing to do but to amuse ourselves, opening and shutting our wings in ecstacy over the flowers. We are in a blaze of pleasant sunshine, and go out into the gardens and streets to bask in it. Perhaps the only thing that seems very curious is, that in all the blaze of the summer sun which burns overhead, the people are indulging in the wintry fashion of roasting chesnuts in the streets. It is because there were no chesnuts in Paris all the winter. This was a fearful calamity. Without chestnuts in the winter, Paris is not Paris. And now we are making up for our former privations. Hunger is satisfied—and at last comes the dessert to nibble at; we must have those chestnuts, and we must make up for lost time over them.

"Amid all this calm, in which we have time to stand at the street corner and watch the traffic in chestnuts, Paris is in danger of an outbreak. I do not myself believe that anything serious will happen, because the normal condition of my mind in regard to Paris is a profound scepticism as to the dangerous character of its agitations. A Parisian mob has, through certain deeds of terror which happened nearly a hundred years ago, the reputation of being the most unruly and the most dangerous in the world. Unruly it may be, but dangerous it is not in general. The Parisian mob is fond of playing at the reign of terror; and when people play at terror they cease to be terrible. However true this may be, there are certain platitudes which are also true, and which we are bound to remember—one very ancient one especially, which proclaims the danger of playing with edge-tools. Therefore, I am bound to assume a certain amount of seriousness when I tell you that the National Guards of Red colour have taken possession of the heights of Montmartre. These heights are the strongest positions within our walls. They dominate Paris, and it will be a matter of considerable difficulty to dispossess of such a position any strong body of men determined to hold it. Whether the Reds are determined to hold the heights at all hazards or not cannot be ascertained until their strength is tested; and General Vinoy, who has but ten thousand troops and only four guns at his command for all Paris, is scarcely in a position to try conclusions with the National Guard if they should dare to resist his authority. So he welcomes with satisfaction the entry into Paris of sundry regiments from the army of Chanzy. In the meantime, the National Guards of the district have made of Montmartre a kind of entrenched camp—all to secure the continuance of the Republic which they believe to be in danger. Two barricades, jealously guarded by sentinles, defend the approaches to the Place Saint Pierre. The heights are mounted with 25 cannon, of 7, which were made during the siege, and which are now pointed on Paris. If the truth must be told, the National Guards like the idea of playing at soldiers, and hate the idea of returning to work. If the Government were bold, it would soon put a stop to this nonsense; but it is not bold; and in the present moment of transition, when everything and everybody is out of place, it seems even weaker and more indulgent, as far as Paris is concerned, than the Government of General Trochu.

"I shall probably give you more details of the comedy to-morrow, but in the meantime it is to be observed that however childish and harmless all this business may be—as regards mere fighting and risk to life or property—it has one serious effect: it makes people afraid of Paris. We hear from Bordeaux that the deputies there imagine us to be in a state of the wildest revolutionary chaos, and that they protest against the danger of coming to Paris. And we hear further that in deference to these apprehensions the Government thinks of establishing the Assembly temporarily at Fontainbleau. At all events it is making serious inquiries there as to the means of lodging the Assembly and its belongings. News also comes to us that the people of Tours are in their own interest getting up a petition entreating that the Legislative Chamber of France shall be removed from Paris; that it shall have its seat in some central town of not more than 60,000 inhabitants, and at a very safe distance from the too excitable capital. The opinion of the Government is decidedly against the removal of the Legislature from Paris; but what can it do in such a matter against the opinion of the Legislature itself? Even those who have not made up their minds on the question, and who would lean to a decision in favour of Paris as the seat of the Legislature, would not perhaps be unwilling to give a lesson to the capital by withdrawing the Assembly from it for a season. It is pretty certain that the Legislature will one of these days return to Paris; but it would be right to insist that first of all order shall be perfectly established in the metropolis. This is the more necessary as certain of the deputies of Paris have declared the Assembly to be null in consequence of its vote on the question of peace or war, and it would be courting destruction if, in the face of such a denunciation, the Legislature were to come and settle down in a city where a large number of madmen threaten its existence. I believe it was at one time absolutely decided, but this was before the vote of peace, that the Assembly would adjourn to Paris. M. Thiers was naturally anxious to decide that question in favour of the capital, because to some extent his own reputation was involved in it. He is responsible for the fortification of Paris, and it has been argued that Paris could not at once be a capital and a fortress. If this argument is to hold good, M. Thiers, by transforming Paris into to the chief fortress of France, had deprived it of its right to be the capital; and it was necessary for him to resist such a conclusion. He naturally regards the defence which Paris has been able to maintain as altogether in his favour. It was a defence which in fact surpassed all expectation, and which, if it could have been aided by good generalship and a good army outside, would have been triumphant. On no account, therefore, can M. Thiers accept the conclusion that the fortification of Paris was a mistake; and however for the moment he may be overruled by motives of prudence, or by deference to the wishes of the deputies, he is anxious to take the earliest opportunity of reinstating Paris as the legislative capital of France, as it is in every other sense also the metropolis.

"There is a good deal of talking and writing here about those telegrams which have passed between the Emperors of Russia and Germany on the conclusion of the war. But it may be curious to note that the chief remark which they excite is a question about England. What will England say to this understanding between the two Emperors? How does England like such an alliance? What has England gained by throwing up the French alliance? How pleasant it must be for her to feel that she has lost her power, and can do nothing in the face of such a combination! The combination has been a terrible blow to France, though it might have saved her if she had remained the appanage of the Bonapartes. Immediately after Sedan General Fleury was able to telegraph to Paris that, if peace was at once made, the Emperor of Russia would guarantee its acceptance by Prussia without indemnity. That telegram exists now in the Foreign-office here. Unfortunately it was a little delayed on the way. It did not arrive till a few hours after the Imperial dynasty had passed away, and the Revolution of the 4th September was complete. Had it arrived a few hours sooner it might have saved the Empire, and peace might have been proclaimed six months ago. M. Jules Favre afterwards attempted to obtain the same terms for the Republic, but failed. France, therefore, has felt severely the force of this combination of Emperors, and she cannot help a little sisterly spitefulness in wishing that England may feel the force of it too.

"The Government, you have already been informed, is prepared to pay at once the first half milliard of indemnity. But a strong section of the press, headed by the *Journal de Paris*, protests against this immediate payment as unnecessary. It will not secure the withdrawal of the Prussians, who, by the terms of the late Convention, are not bound to depart till after the Treaty (the negotiation of which has not yet commenced) is ratified, and not even then; but "gradually." The advice given is to keep back the money until Prussia will accept such financial securities as will secure the retirement of the enemy from all the French borders. Do not, it is said, exhaust your energies in raising funds to pay the first two milliards, when, after you have done so, you may find yourself at your wits' end to raise more money, and may be compelled to admit all sorts of excuses which the enemy will make to continue the occupation of Champagne. Husband your resources, and do not be too ready to pay. In this case there is great danger of finding that the more haste the less speed.

"I believe it is decided in the highest of all quarters that the present National Assembly shall not be what the French call a Constituent Assembly—that is, shall not vote the Constitution. It will be dissolved as soon as it shall have passed some measures absolutely necessary for the welfare of the country and for the carrying on of its business."

REVENGE.—American women continue to take the law into their own hands against men whom they judge to be guilty of offence against them. The *New York Times* notices the course adopted recently by a lady of Wayland, Steuben County, in that State:—"Feeling herself aggrieved by certain remarks of one Mr. Lewis, a merchant of the place, she took the ample precaution of shooting him dead when, the other morning, he visited her house on business. Having eased her conscience by the performance of this duty, she next proceeded to the house of her brother, and requested him to step outside, as she wished a private interview. This he declined to do, but invited her into the house, and led the way into a bedroom. Following him as he entered, she put a pistol to his head and fired. From the effects of this wound he too has since died. Finding her character not yet spotless, this worthy woman then determined to offer up a third victim on the altar of insulted reputation. She directed her kind attention and her unerring aim towards her nephew in an adjoining room. This time, however, fortune failed her, and before she could fire she was seized, her weapon taken from her, and herself placed in custody, with her fair fame not yet thoroughly vindicated. When asked why she had committed this double murder, she is said to have replied rather inconsequentially, and with a serene oblivion of the laws of God and grammar, 'that she would learn Mr. Lewis not to be the cause of so much talk as there had been about her.' Whether her lesson will have the effect of diminishing the talk about her we do not know. There can be at least no doubt that poor Lewis has been effectually taught to hold his tongue for evermore."

"More than a year ago one of my children was attacked with bronchitis, and after a long illness was given up by the physicians as *past cure*. But one of your agents induced me to try your Pain Killer, and leave off all other medicines, which I did; and, from the time I commenced to use it, the child rapidly grew better, and is now strong and healthy. JOHN WINSTANLEY, 10, *Whittle-street, Liverpool, Jan.* 2, 1869.—To Perry Davis & Son."

## BIRMINGHAM AND THE MIDLANDS.

There is a curious conflict of interests in relation to the restrictions on the importation of cattle. The farmers pull one way, the butchers the other. The customers, whom the whole question concerns very closely, have never actively interfered with the arrangements the Government have thought fit to make to bar the incoming of the rinderpest. They have, as usual, left the provision merchants and shopkeepers to take their own course. Everybody remembers how eagerly the farmers pressed upon the Legislature the necessity of "stamping out" the cattle plague, and how earnestly they pleaded for the stoppage of the importation of foreign cattle. For their own animals killed by order of official inspectors they got compensation, and for those that were left to them they obtained very high prices. The plague was extinguished, and since then very strict rules have been in force with regard to the cattle brought in from foreign countries. Every means is taken to prevent them from mixing with our home stock, and once they have been to market they have to be killed. The rules are strict, but hardly strict enough to satisfy our farmers, who would be very well contented if the butchers had no other means of supplying their shops but the English grazing grounds. All this, however, does not suit the vendors of meat. They are tired of the restrictions; they want the open market of the world once again. There is a Salesmen and Butchers' Union in the Midland Counties, which held a meeting in Birmingham on Monday by way of agitating for the removal of what some people regard as a new form of Protection. The special grievance complained of is that London is privileged over the other ports of the country to send foreign meat to market. Mr. Mark Childs, one of the speakers at this meeting, said that, "In March, 1869, he, in connection with forty-eight members of Parliament and representatives of the trades from the northern counties, waited upon Mr. Forster to ask for the granting of the same privilege to the northern ports which was already enjoyed by London. In London they received daily 2,000 head of cattle, which were allowed to proceed from Thames Haven to London through a wide grazing country." Mr. Childs made light of the danger of rinderpest, which is, in the eyes of the farmer, a never ceasing horror. "The consequence of these laws," he said, "which were directed against the propagation of a disease which had long since been stamped out—was to glut the market of a seaport at one time and to reduce its population almost to a state of famine at others." Referring to the immense trade losses consequent upon the restrictions, Mr. Childs said, "In shipping dues alone the shippers of Hull had lost about £100,000 in consequence of the restrictive laws; and they had lost about as much as £1,000,000 worth of animal food to the country. These restrictions at that time were never murmured at. They did not ask even now that these foreign animals should be brought into the Midland market, or mixed with the stock; but that they should be carried straight to the inland slaughter-houses or to the inland stockyards, and there slaughtered within a given number of days." The result of an hour or two of talk was a suggestion for the formation of a trade association to agitate for the same privileges for the north as are enjoyed by the metropolis. Everyone desires to see the rinderpest kept out of the country, but if, without the danger of re-introducing the disease, the butchers can succeed in facilitating the importation of foreign meat, the great body of consumers will have reason enough to be thankful; for the high price of meat is the grief of millions.

The smoke nuisance in the Midlands does not enjoy a perfect immunity. Saltley has had warning. The notice has gone to the Aston Board of Guardians, who appear to occupy the place of a Local Board in relation to Saltley. To these the Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Commission has addressed a communication in which he says:—Having received no reply to my communication containing an extract from a letter from the Local Government Act Office, stating the responsibility of the Board of Guardians, as the nuisance authority, to see to the consumption of smoke at Saltley, under the Nuisance Removal Act, I hereby beg to give you notice that I shall, in a fortnight from this date, if I hear nothing, make a formal application to the Home Secretary to proceed, under the 49th section of the Sanitary Act of 1866, and to appoint some person to perform the duty of which you are in default, at the expense of your defaulting authority. The only reply of the Guardians to this somewhat peremptory document is to the effect that there is a doubt about the jurisdiction of the Board. That is a technical matter, which will not be long in getting itself sufficiently removed out of the way to enable the Sanitary Commission to carry out its behests. It is some satisfaction to know that the authorities have begun to move. There is plenty of work before them. We trust they will not grow weary in doing well till there is not a smoking chimney-shaft in the Black Country.

Ratepayers' Associations are a peculiar phenomenon in our social system, and doubly peculiar in towns which have the advantage of a local authority elected by popular suffrage. One would think that a Town Council or a Local Board of Health was in fact a ratepayers' association proper; but that is not the opinion of the people of Aston, near Birmingham, who maintain a vigorous society to keep watch over the doings of the Local Board. A deputation from the association waited upon the Local Board a day or two since, and demanded many public improvements which the Board did not see their way at present to carry out. To the deputation the Chairman of the Local Board was courteous almost to a fault. He solemnly assured them that "the Board were using all diligence, and pushing forward as well as they could, considering the little money they had in hand; and they were very desirous of seeing the streets in a good sanitary condition." The Chairman further permitted one Mr. Stephens, a member of the Ratepayers' Association, to make a speech, whereupon a much more sturdy member of the Board, one Mr. Yarwood, said "he could not stand lecturing in this way. Were they to sacrifice their time and then come there to be lectured like a parcel of school boys? If the ratepayers were not satisfied with the members, the proper time to deal with them was at the annual election." After that straightforward expression of opinion the Association seemed to have moved off, and Mr. Yarwood will hear from them at the next election. Most people who are acquainted with provincial life know something about these popular self-constituted societies, whose main object seems to be to make some otherwise obscure man prominent, and to give him a chance of being elected a member of the public body. When that aim is accomplished, the association generally languishes till it gets new life infused into it by some fresh aspirant after municipal honours, who follows in the footsteps of his predecessor. With or without an association, we trust all the streets of Aston will be "taken up" as soon as possible, and that every man of lawful ambition in the town will have his chance of rising to the dignity of a civic representative.

There is a Local Committee of the Liberation Society in Wolverhampton, very earnest in the cause, by whom was called on Tuesday evening a meeting of the "friends of religious equality." On this occasion there were an example or two of what is sometimes called "tall talk." The Rev. R. W. Dale, a great man in Birmingham, and a distinguished member of the Congregationalist body, delivered himself thus on the history and scope of the society of which this was a branch:—"The Liberation Society was formed 25 years ago, by a few men of earnest resolve, of stern and steadfast souls, of unquestionable piety. They were men who thought the union of Church and State was not scriptural, but injurious to religion itself, and they set themselves to dissolve the fatal bond which bound the State to the Church and the Church to the State within these realms. It was a gigantic task, and the men who undertook it were Christian Englishmen, just the sort of men to bring to pass what might seem impossibilities. A quarter of a century had passed since then, and many was the battle that had been fought against the monopoly in the Church, and many was the battle that had been won; and now Church Rates had been done away with—(applause)—the Irish Establishment was no more—(applause)—and the gates of the Universities had been wrenched open—(applause); and he was glad to add that they were not without friends within the Church. "Mr. Miall," said Mr. Dale, "has assured us that he is receiving from day to day letters from clergymen in all parts of the country, thanking him for having taken up this subject, and urging him to persevere until the Church was free. They were not enemies of the Church, they were enemies to that system which enslaved the Church." It would be interesting to know who are the ministers of the Church who keep so carefully to themselves their opinions on the Establishment, and go in the dark to pat Mr. Miall on the back.

The town of Dudley, having supplied itself with a School Board, in order to enlighten the minds of its juvenile population, has resolved to have clean water for its people to drink. It has its supply at present from the South Staffordshire Waterworks, a company which does not appear to be in good odour in that district. West Bromwich and Smethwick, it appears, have released themselves from the trammels of that company, and supplied themselves with pure water elsewhere, and Dudley threatens to follow the same course. At a recent meeting of the Social Board, Councillor Clark observed that in many parts of the borough water could not be obtained for several days. The spread of fever in the town was attributable in a great measure to the miserable supply of water. The subject had been discussed for some time, and the company had continually put the townspeople off by saying that the pipes were broken. It was clear to him that they should not get a proper supply of water until the company were compelled by law to do so; and he therefore hoped that proceedings would be taken against the company." The discussion resulted in the following spirited resolution: "That a committee consisting of the aldermen, be appointed to consider and report to the Council upon the insufficient supply of water, and whether and what means shall be taken to get a supply other than that of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company." Dudley is perfectly right. Of all the influences which affect the health and the death-rate of a town the state of its water supply is the most powerful for good or evil.

The ratepayers of Birmingham are soon to know something more of their School Board than they learn by reading long pages of debates in the newspapers. Here is an item from the report of the last Town Council meeting:—"The Mayor read the first precept for the School Board for £3,000, being the amount required for the expenses of the School Board up to the 29th September, 1871, and he proposed that it be entered on the minutes."

The Kidderminster carpet-makers have fixed Saturday (to-day) for a final answer from the masters to their demand for an advance of wages and other concessions. At this town also, as at Aston, there is a ratepayers' protection association to look after the representatives of the people.

Following the example of Drury Lane, the Theatre Royal Birmingham keeps its pantomime on the boards as a secondary attraction after its first run as the chief item of the programme. With the "Octoroon" it makes a big entertainment. The Prince of Wales Theatre is converted for a brief season into a circus and is doing a great business with "Saladin," the fine Arab horse. The "Queen's Minstrels" are in first-rate form and high popularity at the Exchange Hall, and Vance, notwithstanding that he visited Birmingham so recently, has been drawing over-crowded houses at the Town Hall.

## GOSSIP.

Miss Marie Wilton (Mrs. Bancroft), having recovered from her severe illness, will resume her performance of Mary Netley, in *Ours*, this (Saturday) evening.

The literature of the war will be voluminous, and let us hope that much of it may have a title to permanent interest. Among volumes forthcoming are "A Journal of the Siege of Paris," by the Hon. O. Bingham, and "Lucie's Diary of the Siege of Strasburg," by a Young Lady of Alsace.

Holme Lee and Hamilton Aidé have each a novel in the press.

Mr. E. Brock's re-edition of the fine alliterative poem of "Morte Arthure" is nearly ready for the Early English Text Society.

M. Michelet's fervid disquisition, "France before Europe," is about to appear in an English version, by Isa Blagden.

A translation of *Faust*, the work, it is said, of Mr. Tom Taylor, has been produced at the Haymaket Theatre, Melbourne. Mr. Bandmann played Mephistophiles, and Mrs. Bandmann Marguerite. Neither performance is very well spoken of by the Australian press.

A new weekly publication is announced, entitled *The Domestic World*. It is to be conducted by the author of "Enquire Within."

It is said that it will require six months to complete a troupe for the Opera Comique in Paris, the late company having been decimated by the war, or gone to America.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert is writing a musical fairy tale, to be produced on Easter Monday at the Court Theatre.

A testimonial and farewell dinner were given on Wednesday evening by the staff of the *Dorset County Chronicle* to Mr. A. H. Amphlett, who has just relinquished the editorship of that journal.

Heinrich Heine said every woman wrote with one eye on her page and the other on some man—except the Countess Hahn-Hahn, who had but one eye.

An American paper says Gustave Dore, though he has illustrated the Bible superbly, is declared to have no faith in it. With youth (he is only thirty-eight), health, fortune, fame, and friends in abundance, he is represented to be a prey to such morbid melancholy that he often thinks it would be a relief to hang himself.

Speaking of "Herve Riel," a contemporary says when Mr. Browning published "Bells and Pomegranates," some innocent readers wondered what the title meant. Dear me! said the poet, innocently; I thought everybody knew that, in Rabbinical lore, bells meant *sound*, and pomegranates, *sense*. Such was Mr. Browning's idea of what everybody could understand. That story about "Sordello" is well known. It has been said that the poem contains only two intelligible lines. Douglas Jerrold lit upon it just as he was recovering after a long illness, and couldn't make it out. He asked his wife to dip into it. "Why, I can't understand a word!" cried the poor lady. "Thank God, thank God!" shrieked Jerrold, slapping his leonine brows, "I am *not* mad! I thought I had gone stupid during my illness."

Astley's Theatre is to be brought to the hammer on the 28th of this month.

In the year 1870 there were 10,108 literary works published in Germany, being about 1,200 fewer than in the preceding year. 1,470 belonged to theology, 1,014 to law, politics, and statistics; 997 educational literature and gymnast, 739 *belles lettres* (novels, poems, and plays); 346 *belles lettres* (painting and music) and stenography, 692 history, biography, memoirs, and correspondence; 535 natural sciences, chymistry, and pharmacy; 412 medicine, 411 mercantile and technological publications, 391 classical and Oriental languages and mythology, 351 domestic economy and gardening, 297 modern languages and ancient German literature, 271 encyclopædias and literary history, 242 military sciences, hippology; 235 juvenile books, 234 geography, 192 architecture, engineering, railway, and naval; 114 mathematics and astronomy; 103 philosophy, 91 mining, hunting, and culture of forests; 11 freemasonry, 271 popular works (general literature), 389 miscellaneous, 50 Slavian and Hungarian literature, 242 maps.

The *Athenæum* says Mr. Arthur Helps has collected and revised his "Conversations on War and General Culture," for immediate publication. Messrs. Macmillan and Co. will shortly publish a "Narrative of the Red River Expedition," by Captain Huyshe, who accompanied the expedition in the capacity of private secretary to the Commander, Colonel Sir Garnet Wolsley.

The *School Board Chronicle* is exciting a good deal of attention. As a guide to the provincial boards upon many subjects, and as a medium of inter-communication, it already receives marked attention at the meetings of many of the country councils. The paper has a remarkable staff of writers. Mr. Hepworth Dixon, Lord Lyttelton, the Rev. J. M. Capel, Blanchard Jerrold, Joseph Hatton, Rev. Canon Cromwell have contributed signed letters and papers. The review department is full of brilliant matter. The three first numbers of the paper contain some of the cleverest and most caustic articles we have read for years. *The School Board Chronicle* ought to take a high position among the foremost journals of the day.

"With a Show in the North," is not yet published, though some journals have mentioned it as out. We believe it will appear in a few days.

Silver, Electro Plate, &c., to Clean and Preserve.—*Oakey's Non-Mercurial Silversmiths' Soap* is guaranteed to be free from mercury or any other injurious ingredients too often used in the manufacture of plate powder, Tablets 6d. each, by all grocers, ironmongers, brushmakers, chemists, &c. Wholesale, Oakey and Sons, Wellington Emery and Black Lead Mills, Blackfriars, London.

Oakey's Wellington Knife Polish.—Old knives cleaned constantly with this preparation bear a brilliancy of polish equal to new cutlery. Can be used with any kind of knife-board or knife-cleaning machine. Retail packets 3d. each, and tins 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each. Wholesale, Oakey and Sons, Wellington Emery and Black Lead Mills, Blackfriars, London. [309

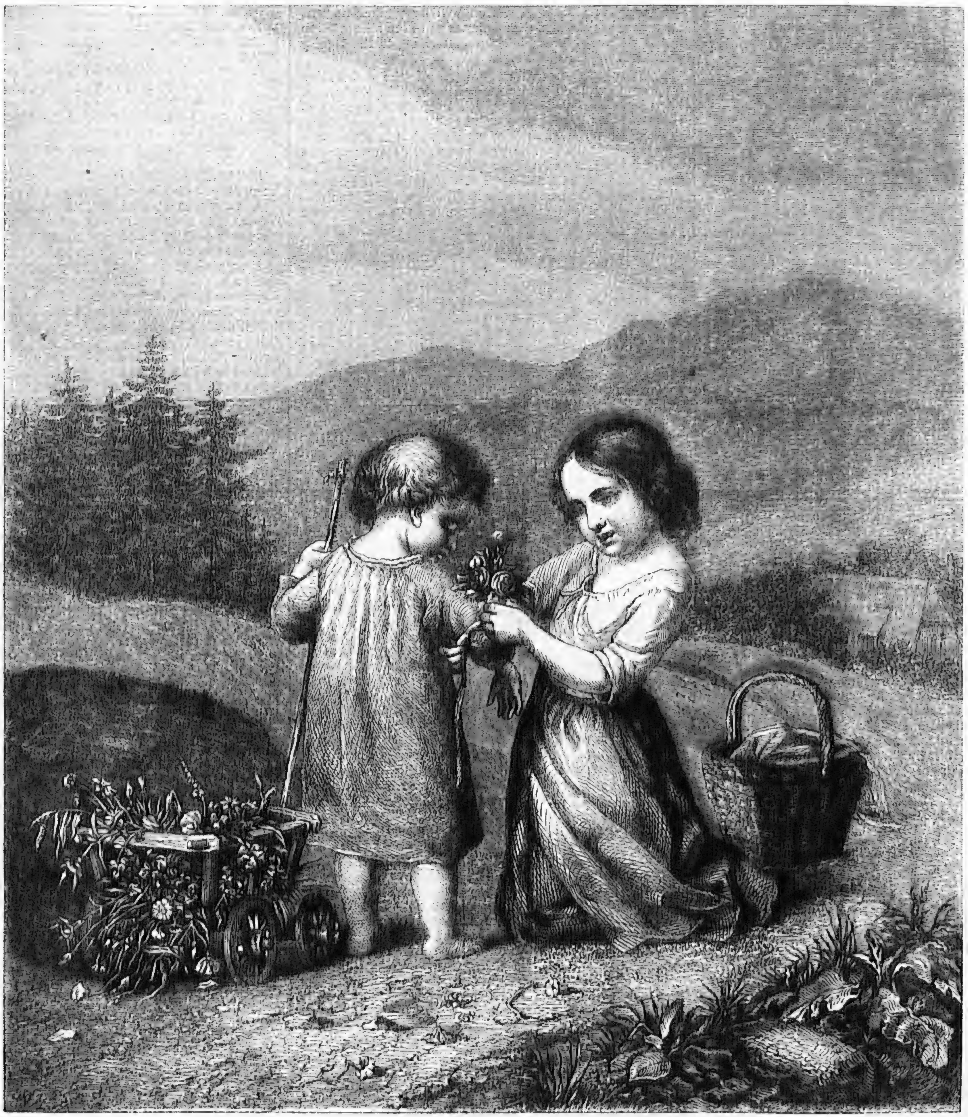
Important.—14, Carr's-lane, Birmingham. Established 1861, for the sale of Pure Tea. Connoisseurs pronounce the Tea sold at this Warehouse superior to any that can be obtained elsewhere. Twenty-five per cent. saved in value. [24

# THE A. B. C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.

WE this week give further specimens of the Arabian and Saracenic, particulars of which will be found in Vol. III., 60; Vol. IV., 74.

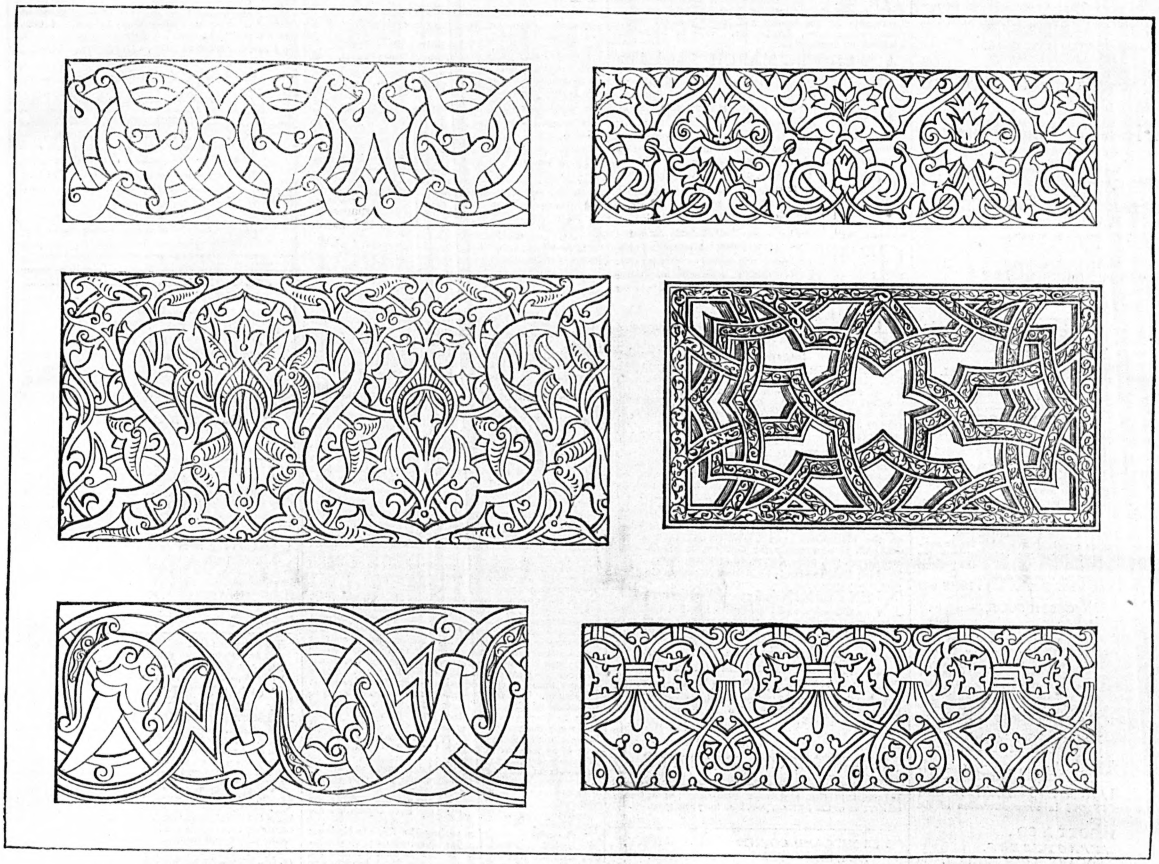
In his fifteenth lecture Dr. Zerffi concluded the subject of Greek ceramic art, which was left unfinished in the last lecture. After recapitulating the principal points respecting Greek ceramic art referred to in the preceding lecture, the lecturer drew attention to the evident traces of manipulation in some of the specimens before the audience. The introduction of the wheel and of glaze, which had taken place at a later period, necessitated the preparation of a firmer paste. This paste had to be subjected to great heat, in order to enable the artist to produce a greater variety of vessels. The transition from rude to improved works had taken place slowly and by degrees; in the beginning the paste had been coarse-grained, the ground colour yellowish-grey, but subsequently it became fine and the ground colour homogeneous. The glazing had been altogether dead. The black colour (not pure, but with a brownish tint) had been spotted, proving a want of experience in baking. In addition to the black glaze, violet, brownish-red, and white tints had been applied, but they had been badly fixed on the paste. With the exception of the pethoi (or wine jars) found at Thera, the vessels of the Archaic style were generally of moderate size. They were broad, compressed, the curves boldly interrupted, and the extremities abruptly connected. The ornament did not form, as yet, an integral part of the vessel. The general forms were pots, cups, flasks, &c., the oldest having been ornamented with points and simple lines drawn all over the vessel. At a later period the ornamentation had been restricted to the bulge, whilst rings, frets, or meanders had marked the upper or lower parts. Plant forms had then been introduced in ornamentation. A further progress was to be observed in the use of animal forms, which surrounded the vessel in parallel circles. In addition to animals and monstrous Asiatic combinations, human figures were also used. In studying these ornamentations a clear progressive development in the whole culture of the Greeks could be perceived. The Hellenic or pure Greek style comprised all the later productions of oligochromatic pottery. It essentially resembled the Archaic style, but possessed a greatly improved ornamentation. The paste was harder and firmer, the colour softer, and the best clay was employed. The black had a greenish lustre, and was without spots. Smoothness and elegance of form, and delicacy in the decorative ornamentation, render this style most interesting. The figures were no longer cut in with the needle, but were laid on with the brush with great accuracy. The frame usually employed was dispensed with. This was an advantage, as it gave greater scope to a more connected ornamentation. In examining the general features of the Greek pottery of this period, we found that it was in many instances not so perfect in point of detail as in the total. The productions were the result of the freest, most conscious, and most accomplished mastery of all the conditions inherent in the material employed, and in the purpose of the product. In the first, or Archaic, period, the artist appeared to be struggling with his material, but in the second, or Hellenic, period, we found him master of it. The curves became less bulky, and the transition from concave to convex lines less abrupt. Though a tendency to over-ornamentation was still to be observed, it was checked by an improved taste. A regularity in decoration was next to be perceived, more especially during the period from the Pisistratides to the Persian wars. All the productions of this epoch had been thoroughly correct, but rather stiff. That the vessel should form in all its parts one continuous line, with as little interruption as possible, became a law. The influence of the Doric-Ionic or Attic style, however, corrected this stiffness, and Greek ceramic art reached the very acme of its development. The decorative motives were in accordance with the gradual progress. The Asiatic types of monsters were used as frieze ornaments, and soon gave place to garlands, frets, or to useful domesticated animals. The creations of over-heated imaginations were replaced by heroes, such as Perseus, Theseus, Heracles, &c., always representing the triumph of valour, beauty, and honesty, over barbaric licentiousness, dishonesty, and despotism. There remained now only the polychromatic style to be described to conclude the subject of Greek ceramic art. This style had originated in a direct line from the first attempts in the art, when white pipe-clay had been painted over. The most celebrated specimen of the style was the vase of Arkesilas. The colours employed were prepared from red, violet, and yellow oxides of iron. During the period which corresponded to the introduction of marble in architecture and ivory in sculpture, we found these highly-coloured and richly-decorated vases. The paste was fine and originally white, and the colouring encaustic. It appeared that not only mineral pigments and metallic oxides, but also other colours could be fixed on the thin paste, requiring only a slow fire. Greek pottery was one of the most important aids to the study of Greek social customs, fashions, and even manners. The pottery, as Dr. Zerffi had previously stated, embraced no less than seven centuries of national development. In examining carefully the various representations on the different vases, we might trace two distinct fashions among the Greeks—the Doric and the Ionic. Simplicity, sternness, and austerity marked the Doric; whilst elegance, taste, refinement, and symmetrical ornamentation characterised the Ionic. Subsequently the Attic-Ionic had been developed, joining the two fashions into one of the very highest artistic perfection. After the age of Pericles a kind of over-ornamentation prevailed, and with it degeneration, corruption, and dissolution set in, socially, politically, and artistically.

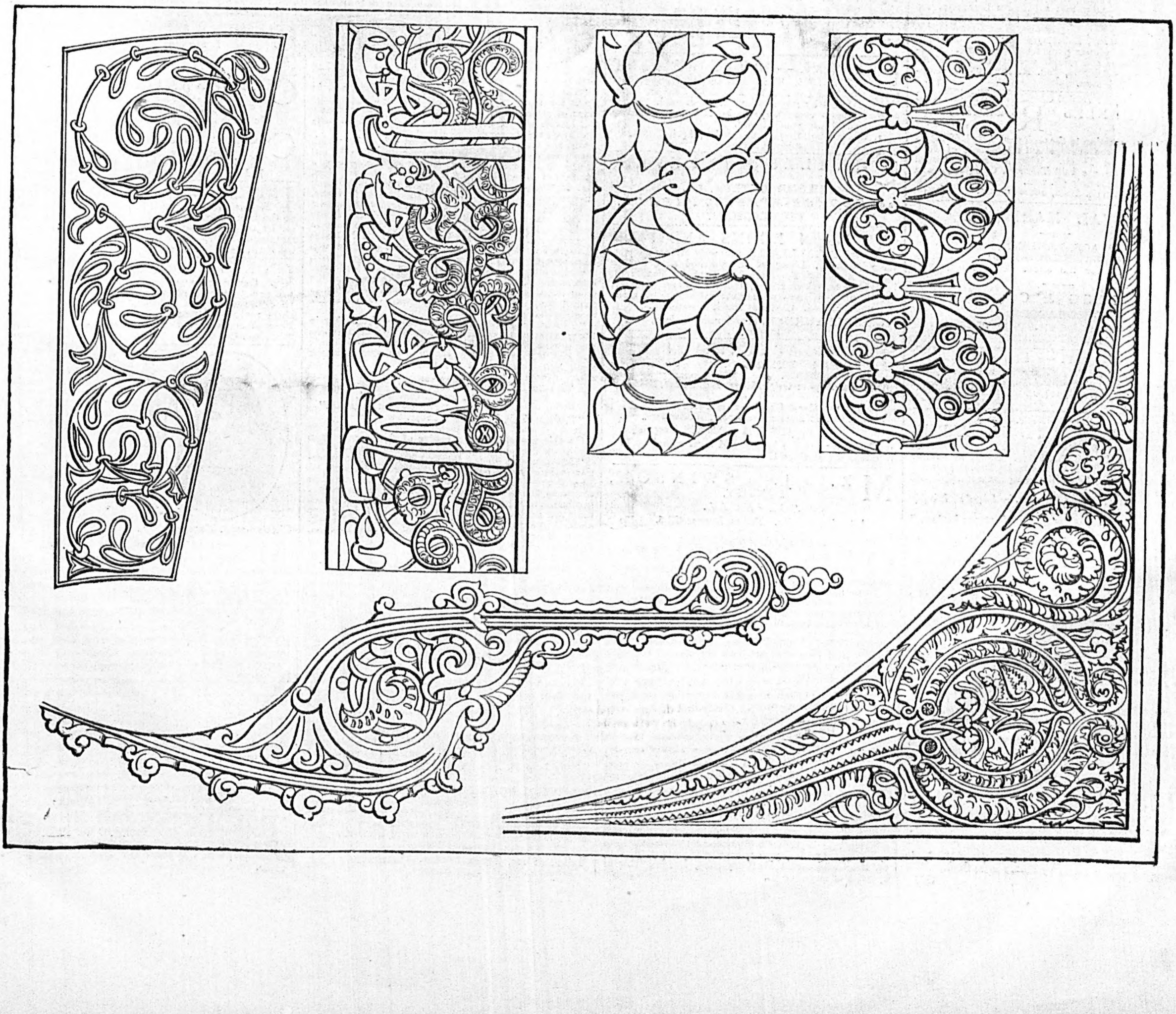
To enable us to understand Greek sculpture an acquaintance with the dress of the nation was necessary. Dress, with the Greeks, had two objects—to disguise and to reveal. A linen garment, oblong in shape, was used as underclothing, and a square woollen one as cloak, mantle, shawl, or coat. The linen was white, and the wool (especially with the Dorians) tinted yellowish or brown. At a later period both linen and woollen stuffs were died by the Ionians. With the Dorians the dresses for both sexes were alike, but those of the men were shorter and less ample. The principal garment was the cloak, which was generally thrown over the left shoulder, leaving the right arm free. Sometimes it was thrown over both shoulders, thus beautifully draping the bust. This cloak rarely reached below the knees. The linen under-garment was only sewn on one side. Sleeves were not used till Asiatic customs had been introduced. The under-garment for women was very long and fastened by a girdle and then drawn up, thus falling in beautiful folds round the waist. The cloak for women was identical in appearance with that of the men. The Attic-Ionic fashion preserved the same principles, but the women were more wrapped up, and the under-garments of both sexes had sleeves. When at rest the hands were hidden, and in speaking the left arm only was used to give emphasis to the oration. Some general observations on Greek dress, as compared with the costumes of the present day, concluded the lecture, which was illustrated with numerous specimens from the magnificent ceramic collection of the museum.



CHILDREN.—AFTER A PICTURE BY A. VON DER EMBDE.

ARABIAN.





ARABIAN AND SARACENIC.

THE A. B. C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.—(*See Page* 156.)—TO BE CONTINUED.

## *AMUSEMENTS.*

### THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.

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"THE OCTOROON,"
AND THE GREAT PANTOMIME,
"DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT."

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THURSDAY, March 30,
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FRIDAY, March 31,
"DER FREISCHUTZ."
SATURDAY, April 1,
"IL FLAUTO MAGICO."

Principal Artistes:—Mdlles. Titiens, Ilma di Murska, Fernandez, Baumeister, Sinico, and Madame Trebelli-Bettini; Signors Vizzani, Bettini, Rinaldini, Rives, Celli, Caravoglia, Casaboni, and Foli.

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DONATIONS and NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS will be gratefully received by
JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.
Office, 73, Cheapside, E.C. [304

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URGENT APPEAL.—The WAR on the CONTINENT having now happily ENDED, the COMMITTEE of the ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS venture very earnestly to APPEAL on behalf of this charity, which is unable to meet the current expenses of the establishment. It has no funded property, but is dependent entirely upon voluntary support. No salaries are paid but to the household.

BANKERS—London and County Bank.
JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Sec.
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Votes are given in proportion to contributions. [305

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THE TOILET.—The QUEEN'S LAVENDER WATER, the most Fragrant, Refreshing, and Lasting of Perfumes. J. PROCTER (late Thonger and Gray), 104, Broad Street, Islington, Birmingham. [27

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## HELP FOR PARIS WORKMEN.

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Dr. James Rogers, President of the Poor Law Medical Officers' Association.
The Rev. Henry Solly, Grove House, Hampstead.
McCullagh Torrens, Esq., M.P., 49, St. George's-road, S.W.

The following statement of a plan by which we may extend a brotherly hand to the working men of Paris, and, at the same time, lay the foundations of a national institution that will extend incalculable benefits to the wage-classes of our own community, has been submitted to the employers and the employed of the Midlands by Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, through the columns of the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS:—

"I venture to set forth a plan I have arranged, whereby the working-men of England may do a noble service to their suffering brethren of Paris, and at the same time lay, on a broad national scale, the foundations of an institution that will strike at the root of one of the causes of the widespread poverty by which society suffers. In 1863 I was engaged throughout the year in investigations of the condition of the Paris poor, and in an examination of the State and private machinery by which they were helped. In the course of my labours I came upon an institution, the object of which was to advance money to workmen. 'This institution,' it was stated in the prospectus, 'is established to help the intelligent and honest working-man. Loans made to the worker when he is in distress reanimate his courage and make him thrifty. Unfortunately, probity, economical habits, industry, and moral guarantees, are often all the workman has to offer his employer. But these are not enough.' The object of the society was to afford material guarantees to the honest workman who has not got them. One special object of the society is to grant loans to workmen for the purchase of instruments, tools, or utensils, which are the first necessaries of their trade or of their home; and to give assistance to them in any temporary or accidental difficulty. The directors soon had proof that their plan would be attended with the happiest possible results. It bridged over many of the little difficulties which often destroy the career of working-men. It kept workmen from the bureau of benevolence and the asylum, and directed them to the Savings Bank and the Mutual Benefit Society. I pass over the constitution of the society—to come at once to its spirit. When a working-man applies for assistance, he must be supported by two witnesses, who will attest to his identity, and declare that he is a man of well-regulated life, and that he really needs assistance. These two witnesses must be intimate friends of the applicant, and inhabitants of the commune in which he dwells. The society is content to take their truth as witnesses for sole guarantee that the money lent will be returned. They are not asked to incur the least responsibility before the law. At the present time £20 (500 francs) is the maximum loan that is granted. The local committees can grant loans to the extent of £8 only. These loans, which are granted only to borrowers who have resided a year in the commune from which they address their demand, must be paid within three years, together with interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. But the time is extended in cases of illness or of departures on military duties. The repayments of the loans granted are made by the borrower through the savings banks. The children of defaulters and the heirs of a borrower who has died without having repaid his loan are not admitted to the benefits of the society until they have liquidated the unpaid debt.

"The advantages of a society like this are obvious; charity is here shown helping those who are most willing to help themselves. It cannot be said that the organisation of the society has the least tendency to pauperise the working classes. On the contrary, it helps only those workmen who are able to show that they lead a regular life, and who can bring two intimate friends to prove that their misfortunes are not the results of their vices. The dignity of the honest workman who has fallen into a difficulty is not hurt by the idea that he has become an object of charity, since he understands that the money the society advances him is to be repaid. He may, indeed, be proud of having obtained a loan, since it is a proof that the society has faith in his honour and that of his friends.

"Let me add that this society has thriven now in Paris for many years, and that although very large sums of money have been lent through it to workmen the loss is almost *nil*, while the fund has been constantly on the increase.

"But in the presence of the awful calamities which have paralysed Paris commerce, the society will not be able to afford the relief of timely loans to one in a hundred of those who will need them. I propose, then, that the employers and the employed of England shall at once raise a fund which shall, in the first instance, be distributed in loans to the necessitous working men of Paris and the Banlieue, under the regulations of the Paris Society; and that this fund, as it returns to England, shall be applied in establishing a National Loan to Labour Association, the object of which will be to rescue poor men from the tyrannies, temptations, and overwhelming exactions of the beershop and other loan societies, which are now one of the curses of the body social, and which help in a sensible degree to spread pauperism, by striking the wage-earner in the moment of misfortune.

"The ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS—circulating in the greatest centres of British industry—will carry this proposition where, I feel confident, it will be welcomed; and I hereby invite all who desire to co-operate in the work to address me at the Birmingham or London office of the paper.

"I have the honour to remain, Sir,
"Your faithful servant,
"BLANCHARD JERROLD."
"Reform Club, February 15, 1871."

On this proposition the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS made the following comments:—

"Most heartily do we commend Mr. Jerrold's suggestion to the attention of those to whom it is addressed. No Englishman is better acquainted with the life and habits and struggles of the working-men of Paris than is the gentleman to whom we are indebted for this letter, and there are not many who have studied so long and so carefully the wants and aspirations of the English workman. We hear a good deal about the international co-operation of artisans for political purposes; here is an opportunity for imitating that social and material co-operation between the toilers of one nation and those of another, upon which will depend, much more than upon anything that can be done jointly in questions of governments and constitutions, the future well-being and well-doing of that class throughout Europe. It is a happy thing that such a movement should begin with the impulse of benevolence and sympathy, merging afterwards into an organisation in strict keeping with the movement that is making silent but rapid progress in this country, by whose machinery those who work are gradually gaining an interest in the capital employed in the trade and manufacture by which they earn their daily bread. We shall be very happy to be in any way the medium between Mr. Jerrold and the working classes of England in the carrying out of this admirable proposal."

A Committee is now in course of formation, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jerrold, to carry out this help for Paris Workmen—that, in the end, will be solid, sustaining help for English Workmen also—in the shape of a

NATIONAL LOAN TO LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

Communications and subscriptions are earnestly requested, addressed to Mr. JAMES BRADLEY, Secretary of the Help for Paris Workmen Fund, at the Offices of the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS—

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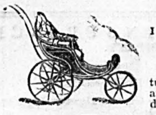

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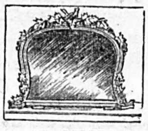

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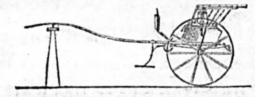

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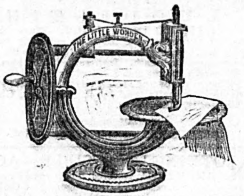

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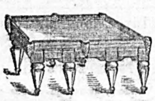

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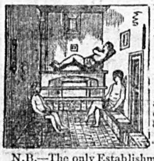

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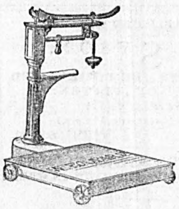

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The manufacturers of this marvellous, but truly genuine article, have, however, placed the same benefits before the million, who may obtain the same relief without leaving their houses or going to any expense. The celebrated Water of Tivoli can be used in your own room daily, in a more effective manner than by bathing in the waters, by adopting the Turkish system with the Concentrated Essence. It is in the reach of every one, for the cost of each bath is only one penny. A common size bath, and to follow the instructions contained in each parcel, are the only implements required. Try no complicated preparations, but that of Nature, and you will do well. A quantity sufficient for 60 Baths sent for 5s., or 100 Baths for 8s., carriage paid, direct from the Sole Consignees in Great Britain, JACKSON, BELVIEW, AND Co., Central Chambers, South Castle-street, Liverpool, or most Chemists. Manufactured and prepared by GUISSEPPE MARTINO, Rue de Babeno, La Corso, Rome. [271

CHAPMAN'S
PATENT
Entire Wheat Flour

Highly recommended by the faculty as the most nutritious and easily digested food for infants, children, and invalids. Its richness in *phosphates* makes it invaluable during teething; it is a singularly digestive and nourishing food for children, and is an excellent diet for invalids, being retained in the stomach when Arrowroot, Corn-flour, and similar articles are rejected.

*From the "Lancet," 2nd April, 1870.*

We hope it will take the place of the purely starchy compounds now in use, both in the case of children and adults.

*From Professor ATTFIELD, F.C.S., Professor of Practical Chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, &c.*

Its richness in gluten or flesh-forming material, and earthy phosphates, or bone and teeth-forming substance, show it to be a very valuable food, especially for children. It is incomparably superior to Arrowroot, Corn-flour, and other forms of starch, which contribute but little to the formation of bone or muscle.

**Retail of Family Grocers and Druggists, &c., in 3d., 6d., & 1s. packets, & 3s. Tins. Wholesale of the Sole Proprietors.**

Orlando Jones & Co.,

*Inventors and Patentees of* LONDON,

Rice Starch.

**N.B.—This Starch, the Strongest and Purest made, may be used with Cold Water, and retains its stiffness in the Dampest Weather.**

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FRYS CHOCOLATE CREAMS ARE DELICIOUS SWEETMEATS. [256

JOHN NEILUS,
GENERAL DECORATOR.
5, *MOAT-ROW, SMITHFIELD,*
BIRMINGHAM.
Dealer in all kinds of Paper Hangings. [127

PALFREY'S, 4, BULL RING
BIRMINGHAM.
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STEEL PENS.

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Sold Everywhere.

YEATMANS
YEAST
POWDER

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AND IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.
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SILENT
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TRIAL BEFORE PURCHASE

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Machines on Hire.
T. S. TONGUE,
Sole Agent,
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BIRMINGHAM. [426

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CHEF D'ŒUVRE

"In peace love tunes the shepherd's reed,
In war he mounts the warrior's steed."

LOVE-LORNE

"Love rules the court, the camp, the grove,
E'en conquerors feel the power of love."

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2, New Bond Street, London.

[125

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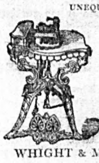
UNEQUALLED FOR FAMILY USE.



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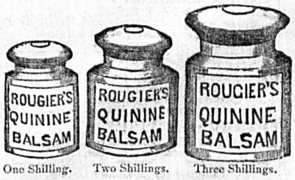

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Prepared only by J. ROUGIER, Wholesale Perfumer, 55, Union Passage, Birmingham. Sold in Bottles at 1s., 2s., and 3s. each. N.B.—Every known article for the Toilet always on Stock. [37

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Patterns free.
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Cheap, Intermediate, and Best
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Last year's Silks, Odd Dresses, and Remnants, great bargains.
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JAPANESE SILKS, 29s. 6d. the full dress.
In every shade or tint at 2s. 5½d. per yard.
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**WHITE PIQUES 6d. per yard.**
A BANKRUPT'S STOCK OF
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Of these beautiful goods in Cords, Stripes, Checks, and Figures.
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SATIN PETTICOATS Extraordinary,
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120, *SALISBURY-SQUARE, FLEET-STREET.*
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Assisted passages under specified conditions may be received. [267

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*LOMBARD-STREET, and CHARING CROSS,*
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Prompt and liberal Loss Settlements.
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CABINET FURNITURE OF FIRST - CLASS MAKE.
BEDSTEADS AND BEDDING SUITABLE FOR THE MANSION OR COTTAGE.
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PATENT TEETH ON SOFT GUMS.
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SURGEON DENTIST,
(Many years Assistant to Mr. Eskell, of Bennett's-hill.)
Supplies every description of Artificial Teeth and Gums so largely advertised, at about one-third of the usual charges, being the *actual maker*.
SINGLE TEETH FROM 3s. 6d.,
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Only address, [40
16, *NEWHALL-STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*

**PERFECT PAINLESS FIXING**
Of Everlasting
ARTIFICIAL TEETH,
BY
MR. LYONS, SURGEON DENTIST,
52, NEW STREET,
(Nearly Opposite Theatre Royal).
FROM 3s. 6d. A TOOTH. [63

REMOVAL.
**THOMAS UNDERWOOD,**
LITHOGRAPHER AND STATIONER,
FROM CARR'S LANE,
*TO 42, CASTLE-STREET,*
(Two Doors rom High-street.) [137

**W. AND F. WEBB,**
BEDSTEAD, BEDDING, AND BED-ROOM FURNITURE
MANUFACTURERS & WAREHOUSEMEN.
7 and 8, CORN MARKET, WORCESTER.

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THE STORES.
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(Opposite the Town Hall),
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Gentlemen Dining at this Establishment will find every comfort that a large and well-fitted Dining Room can afford.

HOT JOINTS, FISH, SOUPS, &c.,
From Twelve till Four.

Ales and Dublin Stout of the finest quality. Wines and Spirits of the best brands. [209

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
**MISS DRAPER, BERLIN AND FANCY REPOSITORY,** from 24, BENNETT'S HILL, to 81, NEW STREET, Opposite the Society of Artists. [131
Agent or Grover & Baker's Family Sewing Machines.

**DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.** The best remedy for acidity of the stomach, heart-burn, headache, gout, and indigestion, and the best mild aperient for delicate constitutions, especially adapted for ladies, children, and infants. DINNEFORD & CO., 172, New Bond-street, London; and of all Chemists.
Use Dinneford's Friction Gloves and Belts. [225

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Prepared from the pure inspissated Juice of the Dandelion Root, combined with Chocolate.
A most agreeable Article of Diet for Breakfast, Luncheon, or Supper, and invaluable to persons predisposed to Affections of the Liver, Spasms, Flatulency, Weak Digestion, or General Debility.
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HOSIER, GLOVER, SHIRT MAKER, AND LADIES' OUTFITTER.
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SCHOFIELD AND JORDAN,
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EDGBASTON,
IS NOW OPEN to SUBSCRIBERS and the PUBLIC generally for
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Subscricribers' Tickets may be had at the Lodge, Reservoir-road.
265] W. B. WYATT, Proprietor.

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**SINGING!!!**
'Twas all my fancy painted it,
'Twas lovely and did shine;
I'll go and get another,
But not a four-and-nine.

BEST VALUE AND VARIETY EVER OFFERED.
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**ELEGANT PRESENTS.**—The largest and best assortment of Foreign NOVELTIES to be found in the Midland Counties.
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NOTTING-HILL, W.
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**BEST SILKS ONLY.**
BLACK MOIRE ANTIQUES. 3 guineas 8 yards. Double Width, warranted all silk.
BLACK SILKS.
Lot 1. Good useful Best Corded Silks at £1 15s. twelve yards. 2s. 11d. per yard.
Lot 2. Rich Best Gros Grains, £2 7s. twelve yards; 3s. 11d. per yard.
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**JAPANESE SILKS.**
The most elegant Dress for Dinner or evening wear. Beautiful new shades now ready, including Pink, Sky, Mauve, Green, Grey, Steel, Slate, White and Black. Price £1 11s. 6d. for 12 yards, or 2s. 7½d. per yard. The best quality that can be procured at any price.

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A choice New Spring Costume Cloth, a great novelty, 19s. 6d. 10 yards, 28in. wide; 1s. 11½d. per yard. Exquisite Colourings.

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A most durable texture for Promenade and young ladies' Costumes. 17s. 6d. 10 yards, 29in. wide; 1s. 9d. per yard.

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A Specialite consigned solely to myself. Very elegant and durable. £1 15s. 6d. 12 yards, 25in. wide; 2s. 11½d. per yard.

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Actuary and Secretary.—George Humphreys, Esq., M.A.

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| Annual Income | £528,378 |
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(Bearing an average Interest of 4½ per cent.)
Further Security—a Subscribed Capital of ........ £1,722,500
The Expenses of Management are under 3 per cent.
NEXT DIVISION OF SURPLUS IN 1872. [263

**MONEY.—From £100 to £3,000,** various Sums, to be immediately ADVANCED on approved Freehold or Leasehold Securities.—Apply to Mr. JOHN BARNSLEY. Offices next the Queen's College, 36, Paradise-street, Birmingham. [866

**MONEY LENT for Three Years,** repayable quarterly, on approved Personal Security. THE FULL SUM ADVANCED.—Apply (if by letter with four stamps) to JAMES BATE, Minories, Birmingham. [827

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GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.
**EPPS'S COCOA.**
BREAKFAST.
"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette.*
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**CHRISTIAN'S PATE DE LICHEN,** in the form of Lozenges, removes phlegm, and gives relief in most disorders of the voice, throat, and chest. In colds, accompanied by cough, hoarseness, and the peculiar tickling and dryness in the throat usually called huskiness, its beneficial effects are felt almost immediately. If taken on leaving heated rooms, it will often be found a preventive of the above complaints. Being free from any preparation of opium, it may be given to children as well as adults. Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. Manufactured only at Christian's, New-street, Birmingham. [408

TO CLEAN AND PRESERVE THE TEETH USE HAMPSON'S
**FLUODENTINE,** or LIQUID DENTRIFICE. Three or four drops on the moistened brush is sufficient for one application. It cleanses the enamel, hardens the gums, and sweetens the breath. Invaluable to Smokers. See Dr. Hassall's Report and Medical Testimonials. Sold in bottles at 1s. 6d., 3s., and 5s. each, by Chemists and Perfumers generally, and by R. Hampson, Chemist, 63, Piccadilly, Manchester.
Birmingham Agent:
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**JOHN GOSNELL & CO.'S CHERRY TOOTH PASTE** is greatly superior to any Tooth Powder, gives the Teeth a Pearl-like whiteness, protects the enamel from decay, and imparts a pleasing fragrance to the breath. Price 1s. 6d. per pot.—Angel Passage, 93, Upper Thames-street, London. [852

**BILIOUS and Liver Complaints, Indigestion,** Sick Headache, Loss of Appetite, Drowsiness, Giddiness, Spasms, and all Disorders of the Stomach and Bowels are quickly removed by that well-known remedy, FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH.
Sold by all Medicine Vendors, at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box, or obtained through any Chemist. [287

**FOR COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA,**
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